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Illustrator 029

PB PASHIブックス 主婦と生活社

Kuma Kuma Kuma Bear

– The Bears Bear a Bare Kuma –

- Volume 3 -

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029

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– Synopsis –

Yuna, a 15 year old girl started playing the world's first VRMMO.

She has earned billions of yen in stocks, and confines herself in her house playing the game without going to school.

Today, a major update has arrived and she obtained a non-transferable rare bear outfit.

But the equipment is so embarrassing that she can't wear it even in the game.

Furthermore, when she answers the survey regarding the new update and relaunches the game, she appears in and unknown forest in the bear outfit.

Where is this? Email from God? A different world?

If she wears the bear outfit she's a cheat, if she takes it off she's a normal girl. Her adventure starts just like that. Yuna began doing whatever she wanted.

Chapter 51
Bear-san Departs for the Royal Capital

On the first day of the escort mission, I first stopped by Tirumina's house to pick up Fina.

After that, we headed to the feudal lord's manor to meet up with Noa.

「Big Sis Yuna, are you escorting Forschurose-sama?」

Fina anxiously asked me.

「That's right. Didn't I say so?」

「This is the first I've heard of this! To meet Foschurose-sama or the like…」

Fina's complexion became rather pale.

Was the disparity between an aristocrat and a commoner in this world that large, like I had expected?

「You're not going to be plucked and eaten, so it's all right. Besides, the client who is supposed to be guarded is his daughter, Noa.」

「Noire-sama, is it? Even so, for someone like me…」

Oh? Even though I've been calling her by her nickname, Noire's name came out instead.

Were they acquainted to some extent?

「In any case, let's go, alright? If it's no good, I wonder if I should decline the request?」

「I-I understand!」

Fina followed along reluctantly.

When we reached the feudal lord's manor, Noa was already waiting in front of the gate, standing with her hands on her hips in an imposing stance.

「You're slow, Yuna-san!」

「If you thought so, wouldn't it have been fine if you waited inside the house?」

「W-Well, when I thought that I could travel with the bear-sans, I got excited with anticipation and couldn't endure it.」

She said in a mildly embarrassed tone.

「Although I understand your reasoning, can I ask something?」

「What is it?」

「I also want to take this child along. Do you have any problems with that?」

I pointed to Fina, who was being timid next to me.

「Who is that girl?」

「The savior of my life…」

「T-That's not it! I'm the one whose life was saved by Big Sis Yuna, geez!」

「So then, this girl is going to be coming along with us?」

「I wanted to get permission, just in case.」

「It's not particularly a problem. However, I won't hand over bear-san!」

I could hear the crack of a whip in my head as she resolutely thrusted her finger at Fina.

「I was going to have the two of you ride on a bear.」

「Then it cannot be helped. However, I won't give up the front!」

「Is it necessary to greet Cliff?」

「It is fine. Father has given me permission to depart as soon as Yuna-san arrives.」

「In that case, since permission was given, shall we depart for the Royal Capital?」

The three of us headed to the gate and left the town.

I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

I would be riding Hugging Bear today.

The other two got on Swaying Bear.

「I said so earlier, but I'm in front.」

「Yes, Noire-sama.」

「That reminds me, what's your name?」

「Yes, my name is Fina.」

「Then, my best regards until we get to the Royal Capital, Fina.」

「Yes, it's a pleasure to meet you too, Noire-sama.」

Noa got on Swaying Bear, and Fina sat behind her.

I rode on top of Hugging Bear.

「With that, let's depart for the Royal Capital!」

It wasn't a rushed trip this time, so we took our time heading to the Royal Capital.

「Ufufu, Swaying Bear~ I'll be counting on you to get us to the Royal Capital.」

Noa was gently patting Swaying Bear.

「Noire-sama is acquainted with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear?」

「Ehem, I was allowed to ride them on one occasion, and we took a nap together afterwards. Geez, I could not help looking forward to today since yesterday.」

The two of them were getting along well and chatting.

「So then, I asked earlier, but what kind of relationship do the two of you have?」

「When I arrived at this town for the first time, the one who helped me when I was lost in the forest was Fina.」

「That might be the case, but since I was being attacked by wolves in the forest, I am the one who was saved by Big Sis Yuna. I only guided her to town.」

「After that, I became an adventurer but couldn't dismantle the monsters, so I ended up asking Fina for help.」

「Yes, I am grateful to have been able to make some money as well.」

「Fina, you can dismantle monsters?」

「Yes. I have been doing it in the guild for a long time.」

「For a long time, you say; how old are you?」

「10 years old.」

「Aren't you the same age as me? To be dismantling monsters…」

Noa was surprised.

As I thought, even in this world, a 10-year-old being able to dismantle monsters was strange.

After that, the two of them continued getting along and chatting on top of Swaying Bear.

It's good to make a close friend.

Their conversation was pretty lively.

Since both of them were the same age, I hoped that they would get along, without caring about their relationship as a noble and a commoner.

Meanwhile, the bears leisurely advanced forward on the road that lead to the Royal Capital.

We didn't encounter any monsters or thieves, and the sky gradually darkened on our leisurely journey.

The road to the Royal Capital continued onward.

I checked the surroundings as I searched for the optimal spot to camp out, before I finally led the two of them a short distance away from the road.

「Is it good enough around here?」

I stopped the bears in order to set up camp.

「Yuna-san, could it be that you plan to camp out here?」

「That's right. By chance, did you think that we would be staying at an inn?」

「I didn't think that, since I usually slept in the carriage.」

I see. You always moved around in a carriage, so you concluded that it was natural to sleep inside one?

「It's my first time sleeping out in the open.」

「Rest assured, there's a place to sleep properly.」

「…?」

I told the two of them to back off a bit and took out the Bear House from the Bear Box.

It had its usual appearance of a couple of bears.

However, it was now travel-sized.

It was about half the size of the Bear House in the city.

Although I didn't think that the size was big enough to attract that much attention, it was still big enough to attract attention in an open area.

「Yuna-san, this is?!」

「The Bear House. Though, it's a bit smaller, since it's for outings.」

「I wasn't asking for its name, I was wondering where it appeared from! Uuun, though I actually understand where it appeared from, was this even an item you could place into an item bag?」

「I can put it inside, though even I don't really understand the size limit for the items I can place inside.」

「Is that the case? Still, Fina isn't surprised, huh?」

「I've seen the Bear House appear out of nowhere before. Later on, I also saw the Black Viper monster come out, so…」

「This matter is a secret, so don't tell anyone, okay?」

I gave Noa a warning.

「Well then, let's go inside. You're probably tired from travelling all day, right?」

I unsummoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear before entering the house.

「Ah, sorry Noa, but please take your shoes off here, okay?」

It seemed like, in this world, it was basically a custom for middle-class households and above to take off their shoes.

Even in Noa's manor, they would take off their shoes and put on slipper-like footwear.

However, lower-class citizens like Fina lived in dirty houses, so they wore shoes even inside the house.

Even the inn was fundamentally a place where you were supposed to wear your shoes into your room.

Noa, who had come inside the house, raised her voice in surprise.

「What is with this house?!」

After taking off your shoes, the first room you encountered was the living-room-cum-dining-room.

The interior of the room was lit up by the light magic stone installed in the ceiling.

The size of the dining room was just large enough to accommodate roughly ten people at any one time.

「Well, for now, properly sit in a chair and rest while I go prepare dinner.」

I headed to the kitchen, spread oil on a frying pan, and laid out ground meat and eggs for making hamburger steak.

At the same time, the preparations for salad were progressing, since vegetables were important too.

When the hamburger steak was appropriately fried, I portioned out the soup, which the inn had cooked, as well as some bread.

Lastly, I poured fruit juice into some cups, and with that, the preparations were complete.

I carried the completed dishes to the table. The only thing left to do was to eat.

「Yuna-san, what is this?」

「Dinner. If you were expecting cooking on the same level as the stuff at the manor, that's impossible.」

「No, I wasn't thinking of such a thing at all; rather, it's the opposite. It seems to give off an aroma that's even better than the dishes at home.」

「If that's so, then all's good. Let's eat while the food is still warm.」

Both Noa and Fina started to eat.

「What is this? This food is super delicious!」

「It's just hamburger steak though?」

「Hambagu?」

「That's right. Isn't it eaten in this country?」

「It's not a local food, to my knowledge. This is my first time eating this.」

「Is that so? This is just made from ground wolf's meat and orc's meat though.」

「Big Sis Yuna, can my family make it too?」

「You can make it, but it might be difficult to make the sauce, and it's more delicious with grated radish.」

「Then, please teach me next time. I want to let my family try it too.」

「That's fine.」

「Me too!」

「Noa is a noble, so isn't it unnecessary for you?」

「That is the case, but it kind of feels like I'm being excluded. It's an unpleasant feeling.」

「For the time being, I'll teach you after we return to town, okay?」

「This soup is delicious too!」

「That was made by the inn, you know.」

「What about this bread?」

「I found a delicious bakery, so I bought them up.」

While having such a conversation, we finished dinner.

「Well then, after the meal, take a short break before entering the bath. We'll depart when the sun rises, so sleep early, okay?」

「Okay, understood.」

「We're heading out that early?」

The one who rose early because of her work: Fina.

The one who spent her mornings leisurely due to her noble status: Noa.

Their reactions were wonderfully divided.

「I don't want to let other people see this house, you see. Other travellers should sleep at night and move out when it's morning, so we will also move like that.」

「I got it already. Also, if my ears were working properly, I heard you say something about a bath?」

「You didn't hear incorrectly, there is a bath. Even if you only rode on Swaying Bear, you still sweated, right? Please go clean yourself in the bath. As for how to use the bath, Fina, please teach her.」

「Uuuu, my common sense is crumbling.」

Fina took the dumbfounded Noa to the bath.

I cleared the table after the meal.

Though, it was just washing the dishes.

After the two of them got out, I lent them the dryer and told them to dry their hair.

I also wanted to take a bath.

When I finished my bath, both of them were waiting for me.

「Not going to sleep?」

「Where?」

Ah, I didn't assign rooms yet.

On the first floor, there was the living-cum-dining room, the kitchen, the toilet, and the bath.

The second floor had three small bedrooms.

One of those was my room.

The remaining two were for guests to use.

In the guest rooms, there were two sets of bunk beds.

All in all, each guest room was supposed to allow for four people to sleep in each room.

After showing the two of them to a room,

「What do you want to do?」

I tried asking them.

「I'm okay either way, so I'll let Noire-sama decide.」

「I also wanted to talk before sleeping, shall we sleep together?」

「Okay!」

「Still, go to sleep soon.」

After making them heed my warning, I headed to my own room.

Chapter 52
Bear-san Finds An Attacked Carriage

The next morning, I got out of bed before the sun had risen.

It was still dark outside.

By all rights, it should probably be quite chilly, but I didn't feel cold, thanks to the Bear Clothes.

When I went downstairs, I found Fina already up and about.

「Good morning, Big Sis Yuna.」

「Good morning. Where's Noa?」

「She is still sleeping. I didn't want to wake her up.」

「Then, I'll be preparing breakfast, so please go wake her up.」

I asked Fina to take care of Noa and began preparing the soup and bread that we had eaten for breakfast yesterday.

A drowsy Noa appeared in the dining room.

「Good morning.」

「Sleepy.」

「That's because you're usually still sleeping at this time.」

「After we eat breakfast, we're heading out, okay?」

Today, I mounted Swaying Bear before we continued towards the Royal Capital.

There was a village along the way to the Royal Capital.

We left after I purchased some fresh vegetables in the village.

On the third day after we left the town:

「Stop for a moment.」

I made Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear halt.

「What's wrong?」

「There are people battling against monsters in front of us.」

「Really?」

I couldn't see them from here.

The only reason I was sure was due to the Bear's Skill.

When I defeated the Black Viper, I went up a level. The power of the detection skill also went up, so I could now detect normal people, in addition to dangerous elements like monsters and thieves.

Furthermore, I also became able to differentiate the type and rank of monster.

「How does Noa want to handle this?」

「Me?」

「My job is to be Noa's bodyguard, which is why I don't want to go towards dangerous places. Leaving you behind and going ahead is also out of the question. If something dangerous appears while I'm not around, I won't be able to protect you.」

「What if you leave the bears to guard us?」

「It's impossible for them to fight with you two riding on top.」

「Then, what if we go to a place near the monster attack together with you?」

「If the attacking monsters end up attacking you, it will be problematic for me, as your bodyguard.」

「Do the people being attacked seem like they can win?」

「Well, even I cannot be sure from here, you know. Although, I can tell when a person or monster dies from the reaction.」

In other words, do we go out after people have died, or rush in while knowing that it's dangerous?

「……」

The 10-year-old Noa was seriously troubled.

「That was a joke. Let's go save them. I'll scout from afar. If it looks okay, we'll leave them be, and if it looks dangerous, we'll save them. However, if they are dangerous monsters, you must run away. Is this okay?」

「Un.」

I made the bears run.

A carriage came into view.

Some adventurers were around it, fighting orcs.

「One, two, three, four, five, six.」

There were six orcs.

There were four adventurers.

A magician adventurer had been knocked down by one of the orcs.

A sword-wielding adventurer was fending off another orc next to the carriage.

The remaining two people were surrounded by four orcs a short distance away.

「Swaying Bear, Hugging Bear! Guard these two!」

I asked the bears to guard the two girls.

I lept off of Swaying Bear and started running towards the orcs.

I kicked off the ground and accelerated even more.

A club was swung towards the woman who was knocked down.

This is bad.

Using the magic power gathered in my hand, I released blades of wind towards the orc that was swinging the club at the magician woman.

The orc's eyes were entirely focused on the woman in front of it. My blades of wind easily sliced through its fat neck and the orc died without noticing me at all.

When I leveled up, did my power increase too?

I ran past the magician and headed toward the adventurer fighting close to the carriage.

If I used wind magic from this position, I would cut the adventurer together with the orc.

I stopped the movement of the orc's lower body by using earth magic instead.

「What?!」

The swordsman was surprised.

「I've sealed his movements, so deal with the rest by yourself somehow!」

After raising my voice, I headed towards the slightly distant location where the four orcs were battling the adventurers.

Wind magic could not be used, just like earlier, since they were fighting while surrounded.

Even if I used earth magic, it was possible that they would still receive an attack from the orcs' upper halves.

I gathered magic power in my hand.

「Shotgun.」

I fired a ball of air towards the orcs.

Four shots at the same time.

When they came into contact with the orcs' bodies, the orcs were blown backwards.

As for the adventurers, who got caught up with the orcs that were being blown away, it could not be helped.

The orcs, which fell down, stood up again.

The adventurers were also going to stand up.

「It's dangerous, so stay down!」

I shouted out towards the adventurers.

I shot a giant horizontal blade of wind towards the orcs, which had stood up again.

Their bodies were neatly sliced in half, and the orcs fell down.

It's not my fault that the adventurers who dropped to the ground have been showered in blood!

I approached the adventurers, who had become all bloody from orc blood.

「Are you alright?」

「You are?」

The two who had been surrounded by orcs were also female.

In that case, maybe they were a little pitiful after becoming all bloody from the orc blood.

「Marina!」

The adventurer who had been fighting near the carriage rushed over.

「Are you all right?」

「Eh, I'm alright, since this weird-looking girl helped us. What about you?」

「I, as well as Elle, were also saved by that girl, so we're okay.」

「So Elle is safe as well. Let's talk about a reward another time. Thank you for helping us.」

「You're welcome. We only happened to pass by, so you don't need to worry about it.」

「I'm the leader of this party, Marina. The guy with the big sword over there is Masurika, and that one is-」

「Euri.」

The magician I had helped first seemed to be called Elle.

We left the orcs as they were and returned to the carriage.

Along the way, I called out for the bears.

I don't know if it's telepathic communication, but I can issue instructions to the bears even if we are separated.

「Elle, are you okay?」

「Eh, I'm okay, though just a little longer and I would have been killed.」

Maybe it was because she had been caught, but her clothes were torn, and her fair skin could be seen.

Although she was covering them, her large breasts spilled out past her hands.

An enemy!

「Thanks to your assistance, I was able to avoid being killed. Thank you.」

「You don't need to worry about it, since it was just a coincidence that I passed by.」

While we were having such a conversation,

「What is that?!」

The adventurers saw Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, who had arrived, and readied their swords.

「It's alright, they are my summoned beasts.」

「A summoned beast?」

Noa and Fina, who were riding on top of Hugging Bear, rushed over.

「Yuna-san! Are you okay?」

「I'm perfectly fine, you know.」

「Thank goodness.」

The two of them dropped down from Hugging Bear and embraced me anxiously.

Both of them were just 10-year-old girls, so it could not be helped.

Chapter 53
Together with Kuma-san!

「Did you come to help us?」

When I turned and looked behind me, there was an elderly man and a small girl there.

They weren't wearing the type of clothing that commoners would wear.

If I had to say, it was closer to the type of clothes Noa wore.

…Which meant they were nobles? Or the kind of people with lots of money.

「If you're talking about the orcs, though that may be the case-」

「Is that so? It would be bad if we didn't express our gratitude as well. We are Gran Faren Gramm. We thank you, together with our granddaughter.」

「I'm an adventurer, Yuna. I only saved you because I was passing by chance, so don't worry about it.」

「Still, aren't you dressed in some strange clothing?」

「Don't mind it.」

「However, you sure took down those orcs quite easily. Isn't that the missus from Cliff's place over there?」

The old man who introduced himself as Gran looked over at Noa.

「Gran-sama, it has been a long time. It is I, Noire.」

Noa gave an aristocratic curtsy and greeting.

She called him Gran-sama. As expected, they were aristocrats.

「I see, it was Noire after all. Has it been a year since we last met? You've sure grown up. Is Cliff not with you?」

「Father is busy with work, so he is still in town. I was told to go to the Royal Capital by myself to see mother first.」

「You came out here all by yourself?」

「Yes, but my bodyguard Yuna-san is here, so I am alright.」

Gran-san looked me over.

「That fellow Cliff seems to have caught a strangely dressed, but competent adventurer.」

I wish you would stop calling me strange over and over.

「Misa, long time no see.」

Noa approached the girl standing beside Gran-san.

She was a few years younger than even Noa.

「Elder Sister Noire, it has been a while.」

「Misa is also going to the Royal Capital?」

「Yes, Father and Mother went to the Royal Capital earlier, so I am heading there with Grandfather.」

「I see.」

「I'm sorry for interrupting your conversation, but there are some post-battle things I want to talk about.」

Marina came over.

「If we leave the orc corpses like this, it's likely that their companions, or other monsters attracted by the bodies, will come. I want to process the orcs, but what should we do?」

「Process them?」

「I want to divide up our share. Though you were the one who defeated them, you defeated them with a surprise attack from behind while we were engaging them. That's why we also want a part.」

Ah, so you were worried about that.

「That's fine. I'll give them all to you. You can deal with them however you want.」

「Are you serious?! It's six orc bodies, you know!」

If it was orcs, I had a lot in the Bear Box, so it wasn't necessary to forcibly acquire more here.

「We're going to go on ahead to the Royal Capital first, so it's fine.」

I walked to and got on top of Hugging Bear.

「Noa, Fina, we're leaving!」

「Please wait a moment!」

Gran hailed us.

「Since we're both headed to the same place, why don't we travel together?」

After thinking about it for a bit,

「There's no merit for us, so I decline.」

「I'll pay you an escort fee.」

「If it's guards, don't you have those girls? That's rather rude to them, don't you think?」

I said it loud enough for the adventurers nearby to hear.

If we talked about employing me, it would be like telling them that they weren't trusted anymore.

「It's not that I don't particularly trust these girls' power. Please believe me when I say that it is for my granddaughter, Misa's, sake.」

「Misa's sake?」

「Ah, during the journey here, it has only been the two of us in the carriage, so Misa has been bored. Which is why I was thinking that, if her acquaintance Noire was there, our journey would become more interesting.」

Hmm. I wanted to decline somehow.

It had absolutely no merit.

I couldn't use the Bear House if we traveled together.

If it became unusable, neither the bed nor the bath could be used.

Our speed would definitely drop if we traveled together.

However, I couldn't make a decision based on my judgement alone.

If Cliff were here, I would just abide by his instructions.

There was no point in naming someone who wasn't here, though.

For now, I'll ask the person being guarded, Noa, for her opinion.

「Noa, what do you want to do?」

「Me?」

I called Noa over and whispered quietly into her ear.

「By the way, if we travel together, the Bear House cannot be used, okay?」

I didn't have any intention of bringing out the Bear House in front of a stranger.

Noa was mumbling "a bath, a bed, a bath, a bed…" under her breath.

Right now, in Noa's head, a 『Bed and Bath VS Misa』 battle was probably occurring.

After a few "unn, unn" groans, the battle seemed to have come to a conclusion.

「Yuna-san, I'm worried about Misa, so I was thinking of travelling together. Is that okay?」

In the Bear House vs Misa battle, Misa seemed to have been the victor.

「If Noa has decided, then it's fine, but there are a few conditions.」

「What conditions?」

「The Bear House is a secret, of course, but if we run into an undefeatable monster, you must leave everyone behind and run away. You just have to promise me this.」

「I-I understand.」

I turned towards Gran-san.

「Has the consultation finished?」

「It was decided that we will travel with you.」

「Is that so? You've saved me some trouble.」

「Fina, please go help those girls with dismantling so we can depart quickly.」

「I understand.」

Fina ran off towards the adventurers, who were in the middle of dismantling.

After a short while, the adventurers returned to us, having finished the dismantlement.

「That child is really good at dismantlement. It was a big help. So, are you really okay with this, giving all the orcs to us?」

「It's fine. Since we'll be travelling together to the Royal Capital, I'll have you listen to one of my requests in return. It's not a big deal, of course, so don't worry about it too much.」

「I-I got it.」

If our selfishness was compared to the orc's raw materials, the orcs should be heavier.

Having decided to travel together with Gran-san's group, we departed for the Royal Capital.

Noa rode in the carriage with Misa.

At that time, she had made a point of pointing at Fina with her finger.

「I'll hand over Bear-san this time, but that is my reserved seat, okay?!」

After firing off that declaration, Noa climbed aboard the carriage.

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear still belong to me, you know.

Marina and the attendant, who took the reins, sat in the front of the carriage.

There was an attendant there all along?

Did you hide somewhere?

It was a man in his late thirties.

There was enough space for six people to sit in a commonly seen seating arrangement.

Elle, Masurika, and Euri sat inside the carriage, scanning to the left, right, and rear of the carriage. They sat in the spots next to Gran-san, Misa, and Noa, who had just boarded.

The bodyguards weren't the type to walk outside?

That's what I was thinking, but, as expected, asking them to keep up with the carriage's pace on foot for a long time, while carrying weapons and armor, was impossible.

When I thought of having to walk for about ten hours a day, I was suddenly grateful to Swaying and Hugging Bear.

The coachman was checking the condition of the horses pulling the carriage.

Fortunately, the horses were safe, so we would be able to depart immediately.

I wondered why they didn't decide to run away when the orcs attacked.

They were going to run away at first, but the orcs showed up in front of them when the horses began to tire, catching them in a pincer attack.

Since orcs were approaching from the rear, Marina and Euri went to engage them first, leaving only Elle and Masurika to deal with the orcs that came later. In the end, it turned into the situation from earlier.

We departed after having confirmed the status of the horses and the carriage.

Fina and I followed behind the carriage.

Clop, clop. Clop, clop.

Umu, our pace sure is slow.

At this rate, how long will it take to reach the Royal Capital?

We decided to go together though, so it couldn't be helped.

I left the monster detection to the bears and decided to take a nap atop Hugging Bear.

The weather was good, and Hugging Bear's warmth was luring me to dreamland.

The carriage advanced without incident until the sun set after our departure.

The leader, Marina, called the carriage to a halt.

It looked like they planned to sleep outdoors, right here.

The carriage stopped beside the empty road that lead to the Royal Capital.

Marina directed the adventurers as they began to prepare meals and bedding.

I wanted to take out the Bear House, but I endured.

For now, I called out to Fina and Noa and began to prepare dinner.

Misa looked like she would be eating over there.

Well, even if I said preparing dinner, I took out some simple foodstuffs from the Bear Box, and finished with just that.

The adventurers over there also took out and ate portable meals from an item bag.

The difference was that my bread was still freshly baked, so it was soft and warm.

I ate while enjoying just a small feeling of superiority.

Soon, the time to sleep arrived.

It seemed like we would be heading out when the sun rose tomorrow.

When I started to prepare to sleep, Marina came over.

「I want to decide on a rotation for night watch. Is that okay?」

When camping outdoors, there existed an enemy of sleep called the night-watch.

Which is why, I would use the favor from the deal regarding the orc materials here!

「If it's about the watch, these children are here, so it is alright.」

I gestured towards Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

「If a monster or person approaches, these children will let me know.」

「Is that so?」

「Which is why there isn't a need for a watch. If you're still worried, can you handle it yourselves? Consider it as the exchange for the share of the orcs.」

If I bring up the point of the orc materials, the other party has no choice but to relent.

「Can those bears really be trusted?」

「Feel free to.」

There was nothing else that I could say.

Whether they chose to believe me or not was up to them.

「I understand.」

Marina headed back towards the carriage.

「Noa, where do you plan to sleep?」

「What do you mean by where?」

「Do you want to sleep together with Misa, or sleep together with the bears?」

「W-What do you mean, sleeping together with the bears?」

She asked me in a shaky voice.

「At night, it'll be cold and dangerous, right? Hugging Bear, Swaying Bear, come here.」

I called Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear over, and had both of them sit down.

Next, I called Fina over as an experimental subject, and wrapped her in a blanket.

I laid the wrapped Fina next to where the bears were sitting so that she was leaning against Hugging Bear's stomach, and tucked her in.

With the left and right arms hugging Fina, yes, this work titled, 『Together with Bear-san』, was complete.

「W-What is this, this wonderful way of sleeping?!」

「This way, it won't be cold, right?」

「I'll go tell Misa that I will sleep here. Fina! That's my spot, so please vacate it, okay?」

Noa went to where Misa was, and soon returned.

However, why did you come back with Misa?

「Yuna-san, Misa also wants to sleep together with Bear-san.」

「May I also sleep together with Bear-san? Today, I heard a lot about the wonderfulness of the bears from Elder Sister Noa. I also want to sleep together with Bear-san. Please!」

She gazed at me straightforwardly, with pure eyes.

As expected, there was no way I could say no to Misa's pleas when she was even smaller than Noa.

「It's fine. The two of you can use Swaying Bear. I'll sleep together with Fina.」

「Thank you, Yuna-san.」

「Thank you very much.」

Misa also expressed her thanks.

「Swaying Bear, unless danger approaches, you can't wake these two up, okay? As for Hugging Bear, if a monster or person approaches, let me know. Sorry about this, Fina, but you'll be sleeping with me.」

「Okay.」

「I might wake you up though, so sorry.」

「It's alright.」

I conceded half of Hugging Bear's stomach.

Umu, it was warm.

I went to sleep while hugging one of Hugging Bear's arms.

「Fina, good night.」

「Yes, good night.」

Chapter 54
Bear-san Catches The Thieves!

Late at night, Hugging Bear moved and woke me up.

「Hugging Bear?」

I rubbed my eyes.

Fina began to stir restlessly next to me.

In order to avoid waking her up, I used detection magic.

There was someone at a slightly distant location?

I observed for a while, but there was no indication of movement.

Hmm, it wasn't there when I went to sleep.

Had Hugging Bear reacted to that presence?

「Hugging Bear, if it moves, let me know.」

Since they might have just started camping out at that location, I requested Hugging Bear to watch it and went back to sleep.

There was no reaction from Hugging Bear after that, and I didn't wake up until morning.

When I woke up in the morning, I used detection magic, but it had not moved from that spot.

I ate breakfast without worrying and left when the sun rose.

I used detection magic again, for the last time.

The stationary party had begun to move.

If the other party were also travelers, it wasn't strange for them to move out at sunrise.

I advanced towards the Royal Capital without worrying about it.

The party followed behind us at a constant distance.

When we stopped for lunch, the other party also stopped.

If we picked up our pace a bit, the other party also sped up.

What should I do?

It didn't give me a good feeling when they were following us like this, and speeding up when we did.

In conclusion, we were being targeted, right?

If we were attacked, would it be at night?

Evening approached while they maintained the same distance from us.

Everyone began to prepare to camp out again.

「Marina, can I have a moment?」

Just in case, I decided to give a report to Marina, the leader of the bodyguard mission.

「What is it?」

「It's not good news, but we might be attacked by thieves tonight, so please be a bit more careful.」

「…Wait, what is that supposed to mean?」

「They have been following us since last night, so I suspect that it is likely for them to attack us tonight.」

「If you had already noticed, tell me earlier!」

「Even if I told you, nothing could be done about it. It's not like we can speed up, and there's still a considerable distance to the Royal Capital. In addition, we don't know when they will attack, and I was concerned that staying alert for a long time wouldn't be possible.」

「That might be the case, but at times like this, we should head to the Royal Capital even faster.」

「We would be done for if they attacked us when the horses became exhausted. In which case, moving around as one would expect is better.」

「Do you have any good plans?」

「Well, if it's only thieves and such, it'll be fine, one way or another. Just, it'll be troublesome if people moved selfishly. If possible, I would like everyone to stay with the carriage.」

「So then, will it really turn out alright somehow?」

「Won't it?」

「Hey!」

「With that, I'll leave it to you.」

As dinner ended, night arrived.

Now then, shall I sleep until the thieves come?

While I was sleeping, Swaying Bear woke me up.

「Swaying Bear?」

As my head gradually cleared, I remembered about the thieves.

When I used detection magic;

Oh, they're here, they're here.

4-, no, 50 people?

They were gathering steadily.

In order not to wake Fina up, I slipped out from Swaying Bear's embrace.

If the thieves do come, I'll tell them to protect everyone.

Though, it's not like I would mind if they didn't come.

「So, they've come?」

Marina came over.

「You were awake?」

「After you told me that thieves might come, there was no way I could sleep.」

「Well, as for the thieves, roughly fifty of them are gathered a short distance away in this direction.」

「50 people…」

「Well then, I'll be going. I don't think anything should happen, but please take care of everyone.」

「Are you really going by yourself?」

「It's because I want those girls to keep sleeping, you see.」

I glanced over at Fina, Noa, and Misa, who were all sleeping while being embraced by the bears.

The three of them were sleeping quietly.

I ran towards the thieves in the darkness, while dressed in the Black Bear Dress.

The thieves had only gathered, and had not moved yet.

Were they waiting for everyone to get together? I didn't really understand, even after watching them, but there was an opening while they were gathered.

I approached stealthily.

The Bear Shoes allowed me to run up to the thieves without making a sound.

「What?!」

By the time they noticed, it was too late.

I had already invoked the magic.

「Shotgun!」

Compressed balls of air attacked the thieves.

One person, who had been riding a horse, was dismounted and flew off backwards.

Another person next to the horse was blasted backwards, leaving the horse unharmed.

That was because the horse wasn't bad.

The balls of air gathered the entire group of thieves into one place.

I executed earth magic next, without a moment's delay.

A countless number of earthen rods thrusted upwards from the ground, surrounding the fallen thieves.

The thieves recovered, got up, and tried to run away, but because of the earthen rods, they couldn't get away.

There was no way to escape; not through the front, the back, the left, or the right.

The only way was above them.

However, in order to cover the top, I used earth magic to cap it off.

「Damn it! It won't break, even with a sword! Someone, use magic!」

Some of the thieves used magic, but it was reflected by the barrier of the cage; the situation inside had became quite serious, due to the reflected magic.

「Stop using magic! We'll die!」

「Damn it! Just what the hell is happening?!」

「Someone, use light magic!」

What they could see, illuminated by the light, was a large cage imprisoning them.

「Good evening, everyone in the thief group.」

They finally noticed my presence when I spoke to them.

「What is it, you bitch?!」

「Let us out of here!」

「Do you think you'll get away easily, after doing such a thing to us?!」

Were these guys stupid? Or maybe fools? To not even understand their own positions, in this situation where they had been imprisoned.

Though I caught the thieves, I could not take them out of the cage.

For now, let's use water magic to pour water on them and shut them up.

「The next time you open your mouths, I'll stick fire magic inside.」

「Shut up! You should know, we're the Zamon Bandit Group-」

「Fire~」

I tossed a giant ball of flame into the cage.

「Ouch! Hot! What the hell do you think you're doing?!」

A magic user inside used water to put out the fire.

「I told you, didn't I? That if you opened your mouths, I would stick fire magic inside. Are you idiots? Morons?」

「You bitch…」

He tried to say something, but I didn't give him the chance.

Next, I raised a 30cm tall prop in all four corners of the cage.

I attached wheels accordingly.

There wasn't a suspension spring or something similar for moderating vibrations.

I wasn't really thinking of the ride quality, so it didn't really concern me that the uneven road would probably cause it to shake considerably.

For the time being, this mobile cage had been completed.

The problem was the power source needed to pull the cage.

I had thought of using horses for power, but because of the shotgun magic, all of the horses had run away.

Since I hadn't injured them, they would probably live.

I considered my next plan for a power source to pull the cage.

A thought came to mind.

However, the problem was that it stood out.

「Come, Bear!」

I invoked earth magic and summoned a giant bear made of earth.

It was a 3-meter tall bear golem.

When I subjugated the tiger wolves, I had summoned flame bears and water bears.

I remembered that, at the time, I was able to move them according to my instructions, so I was able to complete golems for each type of bear.

I could summon bears made of flame, water, earth, ice, and wind.

「What the hell is that?!」

The thieves began to shout.

「Shut up. The next time you open your mouths, I'll make this bear attack you, okay?」

When I said so, the thieves all fell silent.

Since they had finally quieted down, I had the summoned earth bear golem pull the cage.

When I returned to the carriage, everyone was already awake.

Chapter 55
Bear-san Arrives At The Royal Capital!

When I returned with the cage that was being pulled by the bear golem, all of the members were already awake.

「What, everyone was awake?」

「"Everyone was awake?" is not the right response! There's no way we can sleep while knowing that fifty thieves are headed this way, right?!」

「That's right. As expected, there's no way we can sleep in the middle of a probable attack by fifty thieves.」

Gran-san was also awake.

Even though it's bad for the elderly if they don't sleep.

「Yuna-san, in the end, even I don't think I can remain silent on this matter.」

「Big Sis Yuna, as expected of you, this time as well…」

「Even though I caught the thieves, you're going to get angry at me?」

At my words, everyone's line of sight turned towards the bear golem and the cage of thieves. However, they were troubled about which one they should look at.

「Erm, what would be a good starting point to retort with here?」

「That's a good question. For now, shall we listen to what happened with the thieves?」

Everyone's gaze rested on me.

「As you can see, since I caught them all, I put them in a cage.」

「How did you capture them all by yourself?」

「With a bit of magic.」

「What about that cage?」

「I made it using a bit of magic.」

「Finally, what about that bear?」

「I made it with a bit of magic to pull the cage.」

The people around me had various reactions: from sighs to looking amazed, to being troubled over what to say.

Why?

「With each question, the number of things I want to retort to increases.」

Marina looked at me with an astonished expression.

「So then, what are you going to do with the thieves?」

「Well, what would be good? Bring them to the Royal Capital? Kill them all here?」

The thieves reacted to my comment about killing them.

「Could it be, that those thieves are the Zamon band of thieves?」

Elle, who was looking at the thieves while standing behind Marina, asked.

「The Zamon band of thieves?」

If I remembered correctly, the people in question had also identified themselves as such.

「They are a band of thieves that have been rampaging in this area.」

「You're joking, right? To have caught that Zamon band of thieves single-handedly?」

「Is it that amazing?」

「They loot and torture people to force them into emptying their item bags. I heard that they also rape any women they find. A ghastly band of thieves.」

「In that case, should I kill them?」

It was a natural reaction, after hearing that they had raped women.

「Though it's troublesome, it would be better to deliver them to the Royal Capital so that the location of their hideout can be extracted. There might be some captured women at their hideout. Normally, it would be better to go rescue them immediately, but we don't know how many are still at their hideout. Even if we questioned them now, it might take a long time and we won't even know if it's accurate or not. In addition, not only are you in the middle of guarding us, but there are also the thieves you captured, which is why it is better to go to the Royal Capital instead.」

Naturally, I had no objections to Marina's explanation.

It was troublesome, but I decided to transport the group of thieves to the Royal Capital.

「Now then, since our future actions have been decided, let's sleep. It's still dark.」

It was still late at night. Usually, at this time, we would be in dreamland.

「You can sleep in this situation?」

「With this many thieves nearby, I don't feel like sleeping at all.」

「Me neither.」

「Yuna-san, I also cannot sleep.」

「Big Sis Yuna…」

「As expected, even we are unable to sleep.」

There wasn't a single person who approved of my proposal to sleep.

Although everyone said that they couldn't sleep, they would still end up sleeping next to these thieves tomorrow.

In addition, even if they said they couldn't sleep, there were still many hours until daybreak.

「In that case, should we depart instead?」

「Gran-sama?」

「I feel a bit sorry for the horses, but since even those like us are unable to sleep, let's have them do their best. If they get tired along the way, it will be fine to let them rest.」

At those words, everyone began packing up the camp.

Are you all serious?

In the end, in spite of it being in the middle of the night, we decided to depart for the Royal Capital.

Well, I could just sleep on top of the bear, though.

After we departed, at around sunrise, we decided to have breakfast, for the sake of also giving the horses a break.

At that point, the thieves started to raise a commotion.

「You ought to send us food too, you bastards!」

「That's right! That's right!」

「You won't die if you don't eat for a few days.」

「Don't screw around with us!」

I sprayed water on the noisy thieves to shut them up.

By the way, I had confiscated all of the item bags the thieves were carrying.

Even if there had been food inside, they wouldn't be able to eat it.

Those who were able to use magic were only able to summon water.

The thieves gradually began to weaken.

This was nothing though, when compared to the terrible acts the Zamon bandit corps had committed.

At noon, three days after I hunted down the thieves, we could finally see the walls surrounding the Royal Capital.

Numerous wagons and carriages converged from the various roads that led to the Royal Capital.

On this occasion, the bear golem, summoned bears, and thieves attracted many curious looks.

As we neared the Royal Capital's gate, several soldiers, who had been guarding the gate, rushed over.

「Hey, what's this?」

A gate guard questioned us.

The person who was chosen to deal with the gate guards was Gran.

I thought that an explanation from an aristocrat, rather than an adventurer, was more likely to be accepted, so Gran presented himself.

「We are Gran Faren Gramm, the earl! This is the Zamon group of thieves. We captured them when they attacked us. That bear over there is the product of this young lady's magic.」

Gran explained about the thieves and the bear golem.

「Furan Gram-sama, is it? I deeply apologize for this incident. I am Zell, the vice-commander of the 15th Company in the Royal Capital.」

The soldier saluted and properly introduced himself.

As I thought, Gran was great.

「Is it alright to hand over the thieves here?」

「Of course. So these are the Zamon group of thieves? It's great that you were able to capture them.」

「Well, yes. Now then, what should we do?」

「Yes, please come this way. We will take the thieves into custody here.」

We followed Zell, completely disregarding the long queue into the Royal Capital.

All of the people lined up to enter were looking over at us.

More precisely, they were looking at the thieves in the cage, the bear golem, the summoned bears, or me, since I looked like a bear.

「What is that? That bear…」

「It's a bear.」

「It's a giant bear.」

「It's a bear, hmm.」

「It's a bear-san, right?」

「Kuma~」

The carriage was stopped near the gate.

A lot of soldiers were gathered.

Even if they were weakened from the lack of food, it was still fifty thieves. It would probably be bad if they escaped or became violent.

「Now then, could you open the cage?」

I detached some of the earthen rods.

The thieves gave up, came out one at a time, and were taken away by the soldiers.

It was probably because they were weakened from hunger, so they didn't have much strength to resist.

When everyone had been taken out, I returned the cage and the bear golem back to the earth.

Also, even though I wasn't sure if it would become evidence, I turned over the item bags that the thieves had been carrying.

「Thank you for your cooperation. So then, to whom should I report to regarding the processing of the thieves?」

「About that, please report to this young lady, because she was the one who single-handedly captured the thieves.」

「I-Is that the truth?」

「Yeah, the young lady is also a bodyguard for the Foschurose family, which is why the reports should be sent to her.」

「The Foschurose family, is it?」

「You should come to me if there is anything you don't understand.」

「Yes, I understand. Thank you for your cooperation.」

「So then, is it fine for us to enter the Royal Capital? As expected, the long journey has left this old man exhausted.」

「Yes, please go ahead and enter. However, that bear…」

He looked at Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

As expected, they weren't allowed to walk inside.

After telling Fina and Noa to dismount from the two bears, I unsummoned them.

We walked to the reception desk, showed our guild cards, and passed through the gate.

「Noa, where is your house?」

「It is in the upper-class district, so it is a considerable distance from here.」

「Well then, shall we head there while leisurely sightseeing along the way?」

「In that case, young misses, you should take my carriage there.」

「But, the place we're going to…」

「It's all right, because we are going to disembark here. I need to sign off on the completion of the bodyguard request, you see.」

「Marina, thanks for putting up with me.」

「No, it wasn't like that at all. If Yuna wasn't there, the two of us would have died.」

「It could not be helped this time, so you don't need to be discouraged. We shall be counting on you for the return trip as well.」

「Yes, thank you very much. We were also working while anticipating the birthday festival.」

Marina's group bowed before leaving.

「Well then, it's fine to get on board, since we're all headed to the same place.」

Since we had no reason to refuse, we decided to take their offer to give us a lift.

The Royal Capital as seen from the carriage was exuberant.

「Due to the birthday festival, people have gathered here from far and wide.」

Certainly, when we entered the Royal Capital, the queue was long.

「Yuna-san, I can see it! Mother is there, in grandpa's house.」

It was larger than the feudal lord's manor back in town.

How many humans lived in this enormous mansion?

「Well then, Noire. It's fine if it's only while you're in the Royal Capital, but if you have time, please come and be Misa's playmate.」

「Yes, I will certainly come and play.」

「Big Sis Noa, come and play, okay? You have to!」

After we disembarked from the carriage, it raced off.

Chapter 56
Bear-san Gets Involved With Noa's Big Sister!

Tatatatatatatatatata

I heard the sound of someone running somewhere.

Tatatatatatata

The footsteps were gradually coming closer.

「Noa-chan!」

The person who came running over dove into Noa.

「Mother!」

「Noa-chan, I wanted to see you!」

A woman rubbed her cheek with Noa's.

She had beautiful golden hair, just like Noa's.

She only looked slightly older than 25, so she was young, especially for being Noa's mother.

Their features looked similar too.

The heck, at exactly what age did you give birth to Noa?

「So then, is Cliff not here?」

The woman surveyed the surroundings.

「Father is still working back in town. He told me to come here first, by myself.」

「Is that so? It's good that you arrived safely. So then, are you going to introduce me to that child dressed in interesting-looking clothes?」

It was the first time someone had said that I looked interesting.

I had already been told that I looked strange in the past.

Both had good and bad points.

「This person who looks like a bear is the adventurer, Yuna-san. She was my escort to the Royal Capital. This person is Fina. A bear friend.」

What is that? That "fellow bear companion" kind of friend.

「I am Yuna, an adventurer. Nice to meet you.」

「I am Fina. I came along with Big Sis Yuna.」

「Oh my, what cute children. Let's not stay out here, come inside.」

「But, mother, how did you know that I was in the Royal Capital?」

「Ah, I told the gate guards to notify me if you or Cliff came, you see. That's why, when you came, I immediately dropped my work and rushed over.」

Is it really okay for you to just up and leave your work like that?

「Now, come inside and let me hear all about your journey.」

After we entered the large and expansive mansion, we were taken to the parlor.

「I'll show you to your rooms later. For now, please take a seat.」

We sat down on the sofa and a maid brought drinks.

I hadn't had anything to drink for a while, so I received my drink gratefully.

Umu, it was cold and delicious.

I sipped at my drink as I turned towards Eleanora-san once more.

「Eleanora-sama, this is something that Cliff-sama entrusted me to bring.」

I took the Goblin King's Sword and the letter out of the Bear Box.

「From that person? What is it, I wonder?」

Eleanora-san opened the letter and began to read it.

「This is a Goblin King's Sword, isn't it? He sure was able to prepare quite an unusual thing. Moreover, you were the one who provided it, huh?」

「No, it's not really that great.」

「Won't you stop with that way of talking? Since you don't seem to be used to speaking that way.」

「Is it okay?」

「Oh, it's fine. It's even written in the letter.」

「What exactly is written in there?」

「First, absolutely do not antagonize her.」

「Haa?」

「Next, don't make her angry, and if there's trouble, be sure to follow up.」

「Sounds like an outrageously troublesome woman, hmm?」

「But, it's also written that she's kind and an adventurer who Noa has taken a liking to.」

「Is that so?」

「On top of that, he's placed a lot of trust in you.」

「Oh really?」

「The fact that he entrusted his daughter to you, as the only bodyguard, is evidence. In the first place, one wouldn't normally even consider assigning bodyguard duty to just one girl like that. However, to have subjugated 100 goblins, a goblin king, wolves, tiger wolves, and a black viper by yourself, even I had thought that what was written in this letter was part of an elaborate joke.」

「Yes, Yuna-san is amazing. On the way to the Royal Capital, she also defeated six orcs and captured 50 thieves all by herself, you know!」

「Is that true?」

「Yes, Guran-sama was also there at the time, so he witnessed it as well.」

Noa humorously explained what happened before our arrival at the Royal Capital.

Was it because she was happy to have met her mother after a long time?

「Wow, it's already this late. Now then, Shia should be returning home at any moment, I think.」

「Shia?」

「Yes, she's my big sister. She commutes to the royal academy.」

「So you have a big sister?」

「Yes, she's five years older, so we're a little separated.」

「So, in other words, she's 15 years old?」

The heck, when did you have that child?

If you are roughly 25, judging from appearances, then it would mean that you gave birth at 10 years old.

If assuming that you are roughly 28 years old, then it would be a child at 13 years old…just barely safe, huh?

If it were in Japan, it would be a strike, though.

「Yuna-chan, are you thinking of something strange?」

「No, Eleanora-san looks very young, so I was wondering what age you were when you gave birth to your daughters.」

「Ara, when you say I look young, how old do you think I am?」

Eleanora-san blushed and looked happy.

「I was thinking around 25, so you would have given birth to Noa when you were 15 years old, but I didn't think that Noa would also have a sister who was five years older.」

「My my, you sure say some nice things. I don't usually give out my actual age, but I'll make an exception for Yuna-chan. I will be 33 this year.」

Lies! Even though you look this young!

However, would that mean that you had a child when you were 18 years old, then?

「Mother is famous for being a beauty.」

「My, if that's the case, then since you're my daughter, Noa will also become a beauty.」

「I'll be happy if that happens.」

Noa looked very happy.

At that moment, with great timing, the other side of the door became noisy.

「Mother, I'm home! Is it true that Noa came?!」

The door opened and another girl who looked exactly like an older version of Noa entered the room.

This girl was probably Noa's older sister, Shia.

「Shia, you're in front of a guest.」

「Excuse me. Eh, a bear?」

She looked surprised upon seeing me.

「That's right. You're being rude to the bear.」

You're also being rude.

「Mother, please stop with the jokes.」

「Fufu, I'm not joking, you know. The one who looks like a bear is Yuna-chan, who escorted Noa to the Royal Capital. The girl next to her is Fina-chan.」

「These three girls came to the Royal Capital by themselves? Are you going to kid around to that extent? To say that such a small girl made the journey to the capital all the way from the town.」

「You there, won't you stand up and take off your hood?」

It's not like I intended to keep it hidden, so I took my hood off and stood up.

My long black hair flowed out into the open.

「Saying that a small and cute girl like this is an adventurer is a joke, right? How old are you?」

「I'm 15 years old, though.」

「You're the same age as me? Even though you're so small.」

Stop saying "small, small" over and over!

I'll be growing taller from now on, you see!

Even though I was the same age as Shia, I was only about half her height.

「Big sister, Yuna-san is strong, you know. Also, even though Yuna-san herself is amazing, her bears are even more amazing!」

「Bears?」

Shia tilted her head in confusion.

Well, of course, even if you said that the bears were suddenly strong, nobody would understand what you meant, probably.

「That's right. Then, how about a match? That way, even Shia will probably understand it.」

「Wait a moment!」

I would like it if you didn't decide this without me.

「Yuna-chan, please be my daughter's opponent. Ah, it's fine to let her get a little hurt. However, since she's a girl, please don't give her any big wounds, okay?」

「Alright, I'll accept that challenge.」

Nobody proposed a fight, so I wish you wouldn't accept.

The troublesome matter advanced without anyone asking for my opinion.

In the end, it was decided that there would be a match, and everyone gathered in the courtyard.

「That child, due to the fact that she's among the stronger people at school, she's become quite impertinent, so please take her down from her high horse.」

「Mother! I'm not particularly cheeky or anything!」

「My, really? Didn't you say that there weren't any girls who were stronger than you?」

「But, that's the truth, so…」

「That's why, Yuna-chan, it's fine for you to defeat this child.」

Hmm, even if you say that, I'm not sure how far I should go.

She's a noble's daughter, so even if you tell me that it's okay to hurt her a bit, it will be troublesome if she really gets injured and you bear a grudge.

「Erm, it was Yuna-san, right?」

「Yeah.」

「For you, are you specialized in swords or magic? I'll let you choose whichever you want.」

With this pattern, when I won with a sword, it would be followed up with a magic match, right?

「In that case, with swords.」

The maid-san brought a wooden sword over to me.

「Then, I'm ready anytime, so come!」

「You sure?」

「I'm sure.」

「In that case, I'll take you up on your offer and go.」

I fully released the bear and rushed past Shia's guard instantly, striking the sword Shia was holding with an upward blow.

Shia's sword danced in the air as my sword stopped in front of Shia's face.

「Is this alright?」

I lowered my sword and separated from Shia.

It would have been fine if everything finished with just this.

「H-Hold on a second!」

「What is it?」

「That just now didn't count.」

「Why? You said anything was fine so I attacked, that's it. No matter how you look at it, there's no reason to not count that just now.」

「But!」

「You, if your opponent was a monster or a thief, would you say the same thing? After having not understood the opponent's skills and lost, would you say "please give me a redo" or something?」

「That's…」

「If you want a do-over, please do that in school. To begin with, are you actually strong? Are you sure that it's not because you're a noble, so the people around you went easy on you?」

「That's not the case at all!」

「In that case, I'll be your opponent however many times as necessary. Bring it on!」

With people like this, it would take some time before they would acknowledge their loss.

The type of people that cannot allow themselves to lose.

Shia picked up her wooden sword and faced me.

However, her movements were slow.

I didn't have any female acquaintances around this age, so I didn't know if she was strong or weak.

I brushed off the approaching sword, and held my sword to the back of her neck.

The sword I had brushed off had neither speed nor power.

Furthermore, there was no strategy.

It didn't seem like she had considered anything, like how the opponent would defend or attack.

If it was a game, you would have to read the attack pattern, defend, and then attack.

I only parried and dodged Shia's sword, and then pointed my sword at her body, which was left defenseless, before the match ended.

However, maybe she didn't want to give up or admit defeat, because she confronted me over and over again.

It looked like it wasn't possible to make her acknowledge her defeat with just that.

「It's fine if you use magic, though I won't use it.」

「I'll make you regret those words!」

Fire gathered in Shia's hand.

「Fireball!」

A fireball flew towards me.

It was easy for me to evade a single ball of fire though.

「Fireball! Fireball!」

When I evaded it, consecutive fireballs flew at me.

Because she couldn't hit me with a sword, she repeatedly fired fireballs instead.

What were they teaching her in school, I wonder?

It wasn't an issue about being strong or weak anymore.

This wasn't a way to fight.

Even if you were capable of using both a sword and magic, there wasn't any meaning if you couldn't combine the two when attacking.

Even a newbie gamer of only a few months knew this.

Was it a difference in experience?

In the game world, I had crushed numerous people in PVP.

Or it could be said that they picked fights with me.

If it were this world, people would fight and try to kill each other without holding back. In the game, even if you lost, you wouldn't die. You could experience sudden battles. I experienced dangerous battles many times over.

However, in this world, such experiences were impossible.

If you lost, you would die.

I passed through the magic, and approached Shia, and held back as I hit her stomach with a bear punch.

「Kuh…」

Shia bent at the waist, and dropped down to the ground on one knee.

Did I go a little too far?

「That's enough.」

「I-I'm still…」

「You should understand that I'm going easy on you, right?」

「That's…」

「It's over.」

「Mother…」

Shia hung her head.

「With that, let's have a meal!」

Shia obediently abided by her mother's words.

Everyone listened to Eleanora-san's words, and headed to the dining room.

Certainly, I felt hungry now.

「So then, let's start the celebration for Noa's arrival to the Royal Capital, and Yuna-chan and Fina-chan's welcome party.」

The welcoming dinner party began.

Fina, who was next to me, remained silent ever since she entered the mansion, and during the meal, she was even nibbling at her meal with small bites.

Was it not delicious?

On its own, I thought that it was delicious, but when I compared it to Japanese food, the flavoring felt light.

There was a taste of sugar, salt, and spice, but from a Japanese person's perspective, it was somewhat lonely without soy sauce or miso.

「Mother, do you think that everyone at school and the teachers are going easy on me? That I'm just being conceited…」

「Hmm, I don't think that that's the case. Yuna-chan is out of the norm, you know. If I had to say it, she should probably be a B-ranked adventurer.」

「B rank…」

Even if you said B rank, I still didn't understand what it meant.

Since I didn't have any acquaintances who were B-rank.

I also didn't know how strong B-rank was.

「Mother, even if you say that, that's…」

「She subjugated a group of 100 goblins, a Goblin King, many orcs, a pair of Tiger Wolves, and a Black Viper. Then, it seems like she also captured the Zamon bandit group. Moreover, all by herself.」

I'll shout it out over and over again!

Where the hell is the Personal Information Protection Law!

「That's why, it's not something you have to get depressed over. It's just, I wanted you to know that a child of the same age, who is even stronger than you, exists.」

「I understand. Yuna-san, I apologize for my behavior from a while ago.」

She apologized obediently.

Was she a good child after all?

「But, Yuna-san can also use magic, right?」

「More or less.」

「So you're good with that too, huh?」

「In addition, Yuna-san has bear-sans, so she's even more amazing, you know!?」

「You said that earlier as well, but what do you mean by bears?」

「They're Yuna-san's summoned beasts, and they're super cute.」

「Summoned beasts…you can even do something like that?」

「I guess.」

「Umm, could you show those bears to me next time as well?」

「That's fine.」

After that, once the meal was over, we were guided to our rooms.

Because of Fina's request, she stayed in the same room as me.

Chapter 57
Bear-san Goes to the Royal Capital's Commerce Guild

After we entered the room and the two of us were alone, Fina and I both let out a big sigh before sitting on the beds.

「Big sis Yuna, today was tiring.」

「Are you okay?」

「I'm all right, but is it really okay for someone like me to stay at an aristocrat's house?」

「I thought you were rather quiet, but you were thinking about such a thing.」

「That's because if I blurted out something strange and offended someone, it would trouble my family.」

In the end, that was how nobles seemed from a commoner's point of view.

「Well then, now that the escort request has also been dealt with, shall we look for an Inn? Fina can also calm down that way, right?」

「But, the money-」

「That much is fine. Fina doesn't need to worry about the money, you know.」

「But…」

「I don't want to hear any more 'buts'. Anyway, we'll look for an inn tomorrow, so let's call it a day and go to sleep already.」

「Okay. Thank you, Big Sis Yuna.」

We got into our respective beds and slept to recover from the day's fatigue.

The next morning, Fina was already awake and was sitting on the bed with a bored look on her face, having nothing to do.

「Good morning.」

「Good morning to you as well.」

「You're already up.」

「Yes, I woke up at my usual time, but there was nothing for me to do.」

Ever since her mother had fallen ill, Fina had woken up early in the morning to do the housework and to work at the guild.

It had probably become a habit for her to get up early in the morning.

「Then, after I get changed, shall we head to the dining room?」

「Isn't it still too early?」

「If it's too early, we should go outside to eat. In that case, we can also search for an inn along the way.」

「Are you really going to look for an inn? I can bear with it here, if that's what you are worried about.」

「It's not for Fina's sake. I also don't feel at ease in this house.」

The dining room was empty when we arrived.

It seemed that a noble's morning started late.

For the time being, we decided to search for someone who would be able to give us permission to go out.

When we left the dining room and entered the hallway, we found the maid from yesterday.

「Well, if isn't Yuna-sama and Fina-sama. You're both up early.」

「Good morning. I'd like to have a meal. Is it possible? If not, then I was thinking of heading out.」

「No, it is fine. Please wait for a short while in the dining room.」

While we were waiting in the dining room, Eleanora-san entered.

「Ara, you're up early.」

「Good morning to you.」

「Good morning. Having a meal already?」

「Yes.」

「Then, what are your plans for today?」

Since she asked about our plans, I decided to speak honestly.

「To look for an inn.」

「An inn? Why? It's fine if you stay here until the end of the birthday festival.」

「For some reason, it seems that a commoner like me cannot calm down inside an aristocrat's house.」

「However, I think that will be impossible. Thanks to the birthday festival, there is a huge influx of people here, so I think the inns will be overflowing.」

The birthday festival, huh?

The inns are definitely impossible, huh?

In that case, it's a little earlier than planned, but should I find a house to install a Bear Gate in?

「That's all right, because there is still an alternative.」

「I see. Still, it's fine for you to stay in this house for as long as you like. Cliff also wrote as much.」

Fina and I, who had finished eating breakfast, went outside.

While we were in the middle of eating breakfast, the sisters, Noa and Shia, didn't wake up at all.

For Noa, it was probably the first chance to sleep in late after a long time.

After all, during the trip we had always departed at sunrise.

While wandering around the Royal Capital, we visited several inns.

I forgot while I was in the town of Crimonia, but my bear appearance is really eye-catching.

Any person we passed turned to look at me, without fail.

Then, without fail; 「It's a bear.」 「A bear?」 「Cute.」 「What's that?」 「It's a bear-san.」

Such statements were heard.

「Fina, sorry about this, I'm standing out quite a bit.」

「It's all right, I'm used to it.」

Smiling and telling me that you've become used to it doesn't make me happy though.

We explored the Royal Capital while I worried about the stares.

As Eleanora-san had said, no matter where we looked, the inns were full.

For the sake of carrying out the next plan, I headed to the Commerce Guild.

I didn't know where it was located, so I asked for the location at the last inn and headed in that direction.

In comparison to the one in Crimonia, the size of the Royal Capital's Commerce Guild was unbelievably massive.

There were a lot of people entering and leaving.

I entered the Commerce Guild and looked for a receptionist.

It sure is crowded in here.

However, there was also a considerable number of receptionists.

Erm, what should I do?

I glanced around.

Apparently, you picked up a number ticket and went to the reception counter when your number was called.

I lined up where they were distributing numbered tickets and received one.

Naturally, I was also the center of attention when I lined up.

If it were Japan, it would probably be similar to lining up in pajamas.

I couldn't help being conspicuous.

I received ticket number 213.

At the moment, they were calling number 178.

It seemed as though it would take some time for my turn to arrive, as there were only seven receptionists.

To my surprise, it seemed that the numbers were called rather quickly.

After we waited for 30 minutes, our number was called.

「Welcome. What kind of business brings you here today?」

The receptionist's smile disappeared for an instant upon seeing my appearance, but it returned quickly.

As expected of the receptionists of the Royal Capital.

They didn't judge people by their appearances.

However, I wasn't sure what was going on inside her head.

「I want to buy land in the Royal Capital, is it possible to do so?」

「Excuse me, but do you have a guild card? 」

I handed over the guild card.

「Please wait just a moment.」

The guild card was placed on the crystal plate.

「Commerce Guild Rank F, Yuna-san, am I correct?」

「Yes.」

「Incidentally, how do you plan to use the land?」

「I just plan to build a house normally.」

「In other words, for living in the Royal Capital, right?」

「That is still undecided. My main residence is in Crimonia, so I was simply planning on using the house in the Royal Capital as a secondary residence.」

「I understand. Then, let me explain the regulations regarding the land. Firstly, the area in the vicinity of the castle is the noble's district, so I cannot sell you the land there. Next, land in the middle-class district cannot be purchased without a letter of introduction. Thus, the only area left where I can sell you land is the lower-class district.」

「…A letter of introduction?」

The letter of introduction that I received from Mylene-san came to mind.

「Can this be considered a letter of introduction?」

「I will confirm it. 」

The receptionist opened the letter of introduction and examined it.

「This is…yes, I have confirmed it.」

「What do you think?」

「I apologize. I cannot make this decision on my own, please wait a bit.」

The receptionist left her seat and went into the interior of the guild.

「Big Sis Yuna, are you buying land?」

「Yes, because I have the money, and I feel that it will be convenient in the future.」

When I'm not there, it'll be an unoccupied house, but the Bear House can be set to disallow entry to unauthorized people, so there is no problem.

「Oya, if it isn't the young lady.」

「Gran-san? And Eleanora-san? Why are the two of you here?」

When I turned around, Gran-san and Eleanora-san were there.

「That's my line. Why is Yuna-chan here in the Commerce Guild?」

「I was thinking about purchasing land for the sake of building a house, but it seems impossible to buy it without a letter of introduction. I handed over the letter of introduction that I received from the Commerce Guild in Crimonia and am waiting for it to be inspected.」

「A letter of introduction? In that case, shall we write you one?」

「I'm fine with writing one for you too, you know.」

「That would be a big help, but is that okay?」

「Yes, because this life was saved by you.」

「Yes, because you have been taking care of Cliff and my daughter.」

「So, why are the two of you here?」

「About that, you see, after Yuna-chan left, a soldier came to the house in regards to the thieves who were caught yesterday. When I told him that Yuna-chan wasn't there, he said he would go to Gran's manor, so I accompanied him. Somehow, there was a person in the barracks who wanted to explain some things, so he said that he hoped Gran would come to the barracks. Therefore, we planned to go to the barracks, but Gran said that he had business at the Commerce Guild to tend to first. That brings us to just a few moments ago.」

「And then, young miss was here.」

I see.

「In that case, would it be better for me to accompany you to the barracks as well?」

Although it's troublesome.

「From what I heard from the soldier, he did say that he hoped you would come, as it's a conversation concerning the bounty.」

「The bounty?」

「When you caught the thieves, weren't they carrying a lot of weapons and tools? Those were turned over, but all of them should have fallen under young miss' ownership.」

In that case, wouldn't it be bad if I didn't go?

Incidental income was also appreciated.

While I was deep in discussion with Gran-san and Eleanora-san, the receptionist lady returned.

「I'm sorry to have kept you waiting. Regarding the land purchase, if it's near the middle or lower class districts, it is possible.」

「Around where?」

She opened a map of the Royal Capital and pointed out the areas to me with her finger.

「What, isn't this near the edge of the city?」

「You're certainly right.」

The two unrelated people also peeked at the map.

「The young lady over there, lend us some paper. We will write a letter of introduction.」

「That's right. Lend me some paper as well.」

「Umm, who are the two of you?」

「We are Gran Faren Gramm.」

「Eleanora Forchurose.」

「Earl Faren Gramm and Missus Earl Foschurose?!」

「That's right, if this fellow needs a letter of introduction, we will write one. Now, go prepare better land than this.」

「Y-Yes! I'll prepare it immediately!」

The receptionist quickly stood up and dashed to the back room.

Within moments, an elderly woman came out.

「What! When she mentioned Earl Faren Gramm, I thought it was the younger one, but it was the gramps, huh?」

「What is this granny saying?」

「On top of that, the young lady from Foschurose, is it?」

「As expected of you, even though I'm no longer of the age where I can be called young lady.」

「Are you two going to be this strangely dressed girl's guarantors?」

Strangely dressed, she said!

「Ah, that's right, so hurry it up.」

「Mylene aside, why would you back this kind of little girl?」

「For us, it is because this young lady saved this life of ours.」

「As for me, it is because both my husband and daughter are also indebted to this young girl.」

「Hmm, is that so. Well, fine. If you are going to be her guarantors, I'll prepare some suitable land. So then, little girl, you have money, right?」

「Though I don't know how much the land here will cost, even if you name a price that's a hundred times the price in Crimonia…」

「Hmph, it's great if you can joke like that.」

It wasn't necessarily a joke though.

Even a thousand-fold was no problem.

「For now, do you have any requests?」

「If possible, a place with good public order and low pedestrian traffic. Furthermore, as an extravagant request, I would be happy if it were close to the Adventurer's Guild.」

「Quite a greedy little girl you are. Well, fine. In that case, how about around here?」

The old lady indicated a single point on the map.

Since I wasn't familiar with the Royal Capital, I didn't really understand it.

「It's close to the upper-class area, so if it's around here, the public order should be fine.」

「In addition, only large manors are lined up here, so other than the people who live in this neighborhood, the number of passersby will also be low.」

「If you follow along this big road, the Adventurer's Guild is also nearby. Young lady, this place is good.」

「That's true, the rest depends on the price. Well, if you don't have enough, I can also help cover it.」

「That's right, since she is your acquaintance, the price should be roughly around this much.」

I looked at the offered price.

It was an amount I could fully pay.

It was unexpectedly cheap.

「Isn't this a bit expensive? There's no building there, right?」

「Don't say stupid things. For such a conveniently located piece of land in the Royal Capital, even this much is considerably cheap, you know.」

「What does Gran think?」

「For starters, can the young lady even afford this?」

「I can pay it, but the cheaper it is, the happier I'll be.」

「Little girl, are you sure you can pay this? This isn't something a rich kid's pocket money will buy, you know. This isn't an amount that an aristocrat would be able to pay easily, you know!」

「It doesn't particularly have to be in one lump sum, right?」

Eleanora sent me a lifeboat.

「If this little girl were the daughter of an aristocrat or of a famous merchant, then that would be fine. For anyone else, anything besides a lump sum is out of the question.」

「If I pay it all at once, you'll sell it to me?」

「Yeah, even paying by card is fine, but after looking at your guild card, the amount of money in the card doesn't even amount to ten percent of the amount needed to pay for this land.」

「Is it okay if I take it out here?」

「If you have articles to show, then take them out and show me. Once you've taken them out, I'll even consider giving you a discount.」

If you say that, then I have no choice but to take it out.

I produced money from the Bear Box.

「W-Wait a minute.」

I ignored her and pulled out some gold coins.

The gold coins piled up into a large mountain on top of the counter.

「I told you to wait! Don't put all that gold on this small counter!」

Telling me to take it out and then not to take it out, what a selfish old grandma.

「The surrounding people will be astonished, so put it away. It's my loss. This isn't the place for making large monetary transactions. Let's go to another room.」

I put it away immediately, so nobody noticed me taking out a large sum of money.

Gran-san and Eleanora-san were standing around me, and we were also in a blind spot.

With the grandma's guidance, we headed to a separate room.

「In accordance with my promise earlier, I'll let you have a 20% discount. As such, any more than this is impossible.」

I took out the gold coins once more.

「At any rate, who in the world are you? The child of a large merchant or something? But, if that were the case, then you would already be in my intelligence network. Or is it that you're the illegitimate child of some noble somewhere?」

「I'm just an ordinary adventurer, you know.」

「Hmph, so you have no intention of telling me, huh? Well, I'll understand after I investigate a bit.」

Wasn't that impossible?

No matter how much you investigated, my birth information was probably impossible to understand.

「Well, since you have a guarantor and money this time, the Commerce Guild doesn't have a problem. Here, the contract. With this, this piece of land is yours.」

「Thank you.」

「Your gratitude ain't necessary. If you plan to build a house, I'll give you some advice.」

「That's all right, I have that covered.」

「Is that so? Then, with this, we're done.」

The grandma gave off an air of annoyance as she drove us out of the room.

Well, once I got ahold of the land, we had no other business, so we also left the Commerce Guild.

「So then, Yuna-chan, what are you going to do?」

「…?」

「Didn't I mention the summons to the barracks regarding that matter from yesterday?」

Ah, the matter with the thieves, huh?

Though it was troublesome, there was also the incidental income.

「I'll go. Is Fina okay with that?」

「Yes, I'm fine.」

「We'll also come along, so it shouldn't become troublesome」

The four of us headed to the barracks on Gran-san's carriage, which was waiting outside of the guild.

Chapter 58
Bear-san Constructs a Bear House in the Royal Capital

When we arrived at the barracks, the gate guard who had been there when I turned over the bandit group was waiting.

He was supposed to be the vice-commander of his company or something, if I wasn't mistaken.

I had forgotten his name.

「I apologize for any inconveniences I've caused by calling you here today.」

The vice-commander lowered his head towards Gran-san and Eleanora-san.

「So, why did you call us here?」

「We've confirmed the location of the Zamon group of thieves' hideout, as well as their exact numbers. Their hideout seems to be located in a cavern in the mountains west of here. There are 20 remaining members, and there seems to be several captured women there.」

「In that case, you ought to immediately head out and rescue them!」

「Yes, but there seems to be a bit of an issue.」

「An issue?」

「A great number of people have gathered in the Royal Capital due to the birth festival. The soldiers and guards are dealing with them, so there are no spare soldiers.」

「Wouldn't it be fine if you just put out a request at the Adventurer's Guild?」

「About that, since Gran-san has said as such, umm, was it Yuna-san?」

He was looking at me, so I nodded.

「Yuna-san's permission is necessary.」

「Mine?」

「Ah, is it about the right of ownership for the thieves' possessions?」

Gran-san said, as if he had just remembered it.

For the sake of my own understanding, an explanation please!

「Yes, that's right. Yuna-san already captured 50 of the 70 people from the Zamon band of thieves. However, their hideout has not been suppressed. Normally, when thieves are defeated, they cannot be stripped for materials, unlike monsters. Thus, there would be no merit for adventurers to defeat them, which is why there is the right to obtain the weapons, tools, and armors the thieves are carrying. That also includes the treasure gathered by the thieves.」

「In other words, if a request is placed, then the treasure that the adventurers discover would become theirs?」

「Yes, but this time, Yuna-san captured the group of bandits by herself, and we were able to obtain the information because of that. Due to that, we cannot send out a request to the Adventurer's Guild by ourselves. Even if we decided to send out a request, we could not do it without Yuna-san's permission, especially if you have not decided on an amount of reward money.」

「How troublesome.」

「Well, that can't be helped, right? Even though this is information we obtained on our own, other people might consider it to be stealing. There is no issue if the young lady goes on the thief extermination herself though.」

「Troublesome.」

「Big Sis Yuna… 」

Fina looked at me with a stunned expression.

Please don't look at me with such eyes.

Troublesome things are still troublesome.

It would be better if it were just killing them, but there were also people to protect, so I couldn't use the bears, and it would also take a lot of time.

There were no other words to describe it but troublesome.

「In that case, shall I gather soldiers from my side?」

「Eleanora-sama?」

Eleanora, who had been listening without a word, suddenly made a suggestion.

「Is that alright?」

「It's fine. The soldiers will gain some actual combat experience, and there are probably people who are tired of just guard duty as well.」

「But in that case, the defense will…」

「It's fine, it's fine. For that, I can just make some adjustments to the paperwork.」

「I understand. In that case, Eleanora-sama, we will be looking forward to your success.」

「Like this, Yuna-chan is also fine with it, right?」

「I don't really understand it, but please do.」

「If the soldiers go on the subjugation, the right to the treasures will be shared with Yuna-chan. Well, you'll only receive a little bit, though. I'll need to dispatch the soldiers at once, so I'll be going, okay?」

「Yes. Thank you very much.」

「It's fine, you know. Then, I'll see you again tonight.」

Eleanora-san left the barracks.

「Also, Yuna-san, please collect the stuff here.」

When I looked, the dirty swords and armors from before, along with other miscellaneous items, were lined up.

「These are the belongings of the thieves that Yuna-san caught. As I said before, the stuff here now belongs to Yuna-san.」

Erm, but each and every one of them was filthy, though.

I really didn't have any need for such foul things.

「Can I ask you to dispose of it all?」

That's right, I tried asking first.

「In that case, I'll deal with it all and make arrangements for the money received from selling them. Will sending it to Eleanora-sama's house be alright?」

Oh, it looked like there would be proceeds after disposing of everything.

How kind.

As I was looking over the thieves' belongings once more, something caught my eye.

「What's that?」

I pointed at a drawstring bag.

「This? It's probably an item bag.」

This was an item bag.

Was it an item like the Bear Box?

If I wasn't mistaken, the amount that could be placed inside the bag wasn't normal.

「Among these, which one has the most capacity?」

「For that, it is probably this one. Since the head of the Zamon thief corps was carrying it, it has a large capacity.」

I received the item bag.

It was roughly the size of a handbag.

The other item bags looked similar.

The smallest one there could even fit in a pants pocket.

「In the end, can I have the thieves' item bags?」

All of the item bags were handed over to me.

Altogether, there were approximately thirty.

I received them gratefully, and put them away in the Bear Box.

With that, my business was finished, and I thanked Gran-san, who had come along.

「Gran-san, thank you very much.」

「No, we don't mind at all, you know. If young miss hadn't caught them all, we probably would have died.」

Gran-san seemed to have some business after this, so we parted ways here.

After separating from Gran-san, Fina and I headed to the land I bought from the Commerce Guild.

Although I knew the location, thanks to the map of the Royal Capital that I had purchased earlier, the Royal Capital was still way too large.

Inside the Royal Capital, there were carriages that looked like buses running back and forth.

I wasn't in a hurry, so we took our time to look around while heading to the purchased property.

「Fina, are you okay? Aren't you tired?」

「Yes, I'm okay, but there sure is an amazing amount of people here.」

「You're right. Should I say, as expected of the Royal Capital? Since there are many people here because of the birthday festival.」

「Big Sis Yuna, can I hold your hand to avoid getting lost?」

「My hand…」

I look at the Bear puppet.

「Is this good enough?」

I held Fina's hand in its mouth.

「Yes, thank you very much.」

Fina made a happy expression.

We arrived at the purchased plot of land.

「This is the correct place, right?」

I glanced around and compared the map with our surroundings.

「Yes, probably.」

「Isn't this rather large?」

「It's really big.」

The land indicated by the map was large.

The area was over four times the size of the land back in town, where I built the Bear House.

In other words, big enough to hold four Bear Houses.

When I glanced at the neighboring houses, they were quite far away.

For the sake of confirmation, I checked the names on the houses on both sides.

「It's correct, it seems.」

「Yes.」

「Big Sis Yuna, did you really buy this wide piece of land?」

「Looks like it.」

For the time being, I took out the Bear House that I had made to use in the Royal Capital.

「It's small, huh.」

「Yes.」

The house that I had prepared was the same size as the Bear House in town.

It stood alone on a piece of land that was more than four times larger than it.

The size of the land and the size of the house didn't match.

The sense of incongruity was too much.

In addition, because it was located near the upper-class district, the surrounding houses were also large.

Well, before that, a house that looked like a bear already felt out of place.

Even if it bothered me now, there was nothing I could do about it, so I didn't worry about it and entered the Bear House.

「The inside is the same, isn't it?」

「More or less. If it's different, I can't calm down, you see.」

Thanks to the Bear Shoes, I wasn't tired, but Fina, who had been walking around, should be tired, so I brought out some fruit juice while we rested.

「What are we going to do after this?」

「Is Fina not tired?」

「I'm just a little tired.」

「In that case, shall we at least head back to Noa's house first? Since we must let them know that we will be staying in this house.」

「Yes, it would be good if Noire-sama doesn't get angry.」

「We did slip away quietly after all. However, she was sleeping, so it couldn't be helped, you know.」

We decided to go to Noa's house after we finished drinking the fruit juice.

The next day, the neighboring residents would be surprised by the Bear House that suddenly appeared.

Chapter 59
Bear-san Makes Flower Beds With Maid-san

「Yuna-san! Why did you go out and leave me behind?!」

When we returned to the mansion, an angry Noa was waiting.

「Why, you ask? I ate breakfast and even waited for a while, but you didn't wake up and come downstairs.」

「Uuuuu…」

「So, when did you get up?」

「…Just slightly before noon.」

「So then, just where am I at fault?」

「You could have just come and woken me up, right?」

She said while sulking.

「Although I did wake you up during the trip, there shouldn't be a need for that anymore, right? In addition, wasn't your body tired during the whole trip because you only slept that much?」

「Un-, I understand. So then, where did Yuna-san and Fina end up going?」

「We went out to look for an inn.」

「An inn?」

「You see, the bodyguard work is over, so it wouldn't be good for us to stay here and take advantage of your hospitality indefinitely.」

「Even though it's fine for you to stay here as long as you want?」

「It's not like I've received Cliff's permission for that, okay? Besides, the place we're staying at is nearby, so you can come to play at anytime.」

「…?」

「Noire-sama, Big Sis Yuna bought some land in the Royal Capital and built a Bear House there, you know.」

「Erm, a Bear House exactly like the one back in town?」

「Yes. It's pretty close, along the way to the middle-class area.」

「But…Fina is also going to leave, right?」

「Yes, since Big Sis Yuna brought me here.」

「But, if Yuna-san leaves, then the bear-sans will…」

As Noa understood, more or less, she grew depressed.

It's not me, but Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear that you don't want to separate from, huh.

「In that case, do you want to play with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear for the afternoon?」

「Really?! Then, let's go to the garden immediately!」

Noa took me to the garden.

It was wider than the garden of the feudal lord's manor in town.

「Noa-sama, is something wrong?」

When we arrived at the garden, we found the maid-san who was always taking care of me.

「Suririna, what are you doing?」

「Yes, I was thinking of planting flowers in this garden, with the madam's permission.」

「But, are you troubled by something?」

She certainly looked like she was worrying about something.

「Yes, what should I call this rock…this 'boulder' is in the way.」

Certainly, there was a boulder several times larger than Swaying Bear in the garden.

「Why is there such a boulder in the estate's garden?」

「I'm not sure, it was already here when I started serving here.」

「So, what do you plan to do?」

「I was thinking of placing a request for its removal somewhere, but I was wondering where would be a good place to ask.」

「Shall I do it?」

「Yuna-sama will?」

She looked me over from top to bottom, then again from bottom to top.

「Erm, it might be impossible, though?」

How rude.

Didn't you learn from your parents that it's bad to judge people based on appearances?

「Not really. If it's just removing it, then using an item bag should be fine.」

I approached the boulder and put it into the Bear Box.

The buried boulder disappeared.

「That's a-amazing. It's my first time seeing an item bag you can put boulders into.」

「What should I do with this boulder? If it's disposable, then I'll throw it away the next time I go outside.」

「Yes, if it's not too inconvenient, may I ask you to do so?」

「Understood.」

「Then, I need to prepare for the creation of the flower beds, so please excuse me.」

Suririna-san lowered her head and headed off.

「Yuna-san, the bear-sans please!」

In response to Noa's request, I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

Noa and Fina started to play with them. Though I said that, they were just hugging them, riding on top of them, and running around the grounds.

While I was watching them play, Suririna-san returned while carrying a shovel.

Was she planning to do it alone, by any chance?

I had thought that she was going to submit a request to some traders somewhere, but that didn't seem to be the case.

I went over to Suririna-san.

「Should I lend a hand?」

「Is that alright with you?」

「The two of them are like that, so I have some free time.」

「Are those Yuna-sama's bear-sans? Docile, aren't they?」

「Well, they are summoned beasts after all.」

I began to make the flower beds with Suririna-san.

First, we filled in the hole that was created when I removed the boulder.

「Roughly how much space will the flower beds take?」

「Ah, that's right. I was planning for it to be from here to somewhere over there.」

Unexpectedly wide.

「In that case, please give me instructions. I'll do it using magic.」

「Yuna-sama is capable of using earth magic, hmm.」

「Can you stop with that 'Yuna-sama'? Just Yuna is fine.」

「Then, is 'Yuna-san' alright with you?」

「Un, that's fine.」

As expected, -sama didn't suit me.

With that kind of feeling, Suririna the maid-san and I began making the flower beds.

We lined the border of the flower beds with bricks, improved the drainage, and prepped the soil for use.

While we were making the flower beds, it became noisy behind us.

「Noa! What are you doing?!」

「Elder sister.」

Shia had apparently returned from school.

「Hurry and come over here.」

「Why?」

「Why is there a bear here? What are the soldiers doing?!」

「Elder sister, it's alright. This bear-san is Yuna-san's summoned beast.」

「A summoned beast?」

「Yes. That's why it's obedient and cute, you know.」

Noa wrapped her arms around Swaying Bear's neck in a hug.

「Is it really safe?」

「Yes, I journeyed all the way from town to the Royal Capital on this bear-san's back, you know.」

Noa rode on Swaying Bear's back to show her.

「These children are very smart, so they won't harm people.」

「Is that so?」

「Elder sister, won't you try touching it too? It's alright.」

Shia timidly touched Swaying Bear.

When she understood that Swaying Bear was docile, she tried patting it gently.

「It sure is soft.」

「Yes, it is very pleasant to the touch.」

「It's also such beautiful fur. I've never seen fur like this before.」

Once Shia understood that the bears were safe, she also started frolicking with them.

Suririna-san and I resumed our work on the flower beds.

Following Suririna-san's instructions, I made them using magic.

Magic sure was convenient.

Doing something that I wasn't able to do before was fun.

I lost many things after coming to this world, but I also gained a lot.

I made the flower beds one by one with magic, but Suririna-san was unexpectedly sensitive to details with her instructions, so it took longer than I had anticipated.

「Yuna-san, thank you very much. I didn't think that this would be finished in one day.」

「Do you have seeds?」

「Yes, I have prepared seeds of the flowers that the madam loves.」

「I hope it is beautiful when it blooms.」

「Yes, I shall do my best to raise them.」

When I looked around the garden, two bears and three girls were comfortably asleep.

Chapter 60
Bear-san Obtains Potatoes

When I went to wake the three who were still sleeping,

「What is everyone doing in the garden?」

Eleanora-san came over.

「Welcome back, madam.」

「Ara, the way those three are sleeping looks really comfortable.」

She wore a warm expression as she watched the three of them sleep while being embraced by Swaying Bear.

「Are those bears Yuna-chan's summoned beasts?」

「The black one is Swaying Bear, and the white one is Hugging Bear.」

「What cute names. Is it alright if I touch them?」

「It's alright as long as you don't harm them.」

Eleanora-san approached and touched Swaying Bear.

「It's warm and pleasant to touch. Like this, one couldn't help but want to sleep.」

She smiled while gazing at the three young girls.

「What are the two of you doing?」

「I was fixing the flower beds with Yuna-san's assistance.」

Suririna-san showed off the flower beds we made together.

「Ah, the flower beds you were talking about the other day, right? Did you do this in a single day? They're beautiful.」

「Yes, Yuna-san's magic was splendid, and made them according to the image I had in mind.」

「Is that so? Yuna-chan, thank you. It seems we have given you all sorts of trouble.」

She looked at the beautifully completed flower beds and at the girls who were sleeping in the bears' embrace.

「I really must reward you with something to show my gratitude.」

「That's not necessary, since you helped me out today.」

「Ah, that matter, huh. Since I dispatched the soldiers immediately, the thieves should be subjugated in a few days, so you can rest easy.」

「They won't run away?」

「It's all right. If you caught all of the thieves that attacked you, then the thieves at the hideout won't know that their comrades were captured, right?」

「However, if they never return…」

「Judging from previous instances, after the thieves assault someone, they go to the nearby village to buy food and drink. They don't normally return to the hideout immediately, so they wouldn't consider it strange if people returned late.」

「Is that village all right?」

「It's all right, since the thieves won't attack the village.」

「Why is that?」

「Criminals cannot enter the Royal Capital or towns, as these places are able to examine them and look up their criminal records. It's only in villages that they aren't examined. If they attacked villages, then they would lose a place to buy goods, which is why the thieves won't attack the villages.」

I see, so the thieves also had rules that they followed, huh?

「Now then, it's about time for these three to wake up.」

「Mother?」

She looked at her mother with a sleepy face.

「Good morning. The three of you seem to have slept well, hmm.」

When all three of them woke up and noticed that their time with Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear was over, they made sad expressions.

Why, even Fina?

I had heard about the matter regarding the thieves from Eleanora-san and said my thanks, so I was going to leave the mansion.

「Yuna-chan, you don't have a house yet, right? It's fine to stay here until then, you know.」

Ah, that's right. Eleanora-san doesn't know about the Bear House yet, huh?

「It's all right. It's a bit small, but I've already built a house.」

「That's a joke, right?」

「I made it using a bit of magic, similar to the magic used to create the flower beds.」

「Ha, please don't lump flower beds and houses together like that. If it was that easy to build a house, then work for carpenter-san would quickly disappear, you know!」

She said while laughing.

///

The next day, I woke up in the Bear House.

「Big sis Yuna, is it okay?」

「It's fine.」

It seemed like Fina had made a promise to go out together with Noa today.

「Here, I've put some money in there, so use it however you want.」

I handed over one of the item bags I had received as a reward for capturing the thieves.

「The two of you are going to go to many different places, right? Since it's Fina, you probably won't allow yourself to be treated all the time.」

「But…」

「It's the long-awaited Royal Capital, you know. It would be a waste if you didn't enjoy yourself. Even with this much, if you're still worried about the money, then it's fine if you work harder with the dismantling from now on.」

「Since I'm unable to do the dismantling after all,」 I quietly muttered in my heart.

Now then, since even Fina had left, I decided to go sightseeing in the Royal Capital as well.

Though the stares of the people bothered me, the real point was that I didn't have the courage to change into casual clothes.

I was afraid that my magic, skills, summons, and everything else would be unusable without the bear clothes.

I thought that if I were attacked or if a dangerous situation were to occur, then, if I was wearing casual clothes, I wouldn't be able to change.

If I was in the bear clothes, however, then even if I were to be attacked or found myself in a dangerous situation, I would be able to handle it somehow.

Even if Fina found herself in danger, I would be able to rush over immediately.

That is why I decided to endure the gazes and walked around the capital looking like a bear.

Well, the gazes were mostly warm though.

If it was only embarrassment, then it was fine if I just did my best to endure it.

As I was walking around the Royal Capital, I ended up in a large plaza.

Did peddler shops line up here, I wonder?

Quite a number of cloths were spread on the plaza grounds, with various articles lined up on top.

I took my time looking around.

「This is…」

「Hmm? Welcome miss, what a cute appearance you have.」

A man in his late thirties said softly.

「Is this possibly, a potato?」

That's right, he was selling potatoes which I hadn't seen on sale even in town.

「That's right. Miss, will you buy some?」

At last, I managed to come across potatoes.

Which is why I said it.

「I'll take everything.」

「Yes? Miss, even if potatoes are an unpopular food, even miss cannot buy all of it with the money you're carrying.」

The man began to lose his temper a bit.

「How much is it?」

「Hmm, that's right. Around this much. If you can pay, I'll sell it all to you.」

He gave a curt reply , but my answer to that was-

「I'll take it!」

「Like I said…」

I paid the man more than the designated amount.

「Are you serious?」

After seeing the money I took out, the man looked at me with a surprised expression.

「I'm happy that you'll buy them, but are you sure?」

「I've been looking for this, these potatoes. It's good steamed, in potato salad, or even as french fries!」

「Miss, have you eaten potatoes before?」

「Isn't that obvious? Such a delicious thing, but since it wasn't sold in the town I've lived in up till now, I have been searching for it.」

「Well, that's to be expected, since it's an unpopular food after all.」

「Why is that?」

「If you're unlucky, then you might become nauseous and get a stomachache.」

「Ah, poison, right?」

「So you know about it?」

「Well, there is poison in the potato's eyes after all. Besides that though, as long as you don't eat the eyes, it's a delicious food, you know!」

「...is that true?」

「What do you mean?」

「About the eyes.」

「It's the truth. The poison is only in the eyes of the potatoes, did you not even know that much?」

「Miss, are you a scholar-sama? There isn't anyone who would know of such a thing.」

So, because something like this wasn't widely known, potatoes weren't being sold?

Well, as for me, I didn't know about the differences between mushrooms, so it was probably a similar feeling to that.

「That's not it. It's just, in the place where I was born and raised, that much was common sense.」

「Common sense, huh. A place where it's normal to be able to eat potatoes, huh. It must be a good place.」

「But, if you tell everyone about the eyes, then wouldn't everyone be able to eat them?」

「Aah, but making the information widespread is very difficult. Still, I'm grateful.」

「I'm glad to have been of use. So then, uncle, won't you tell me the location of your village? Next time, I'll go there to buy more.」

「I'm happy to hear that, but it's quite a distance.」

I took out some paper and had him draw a map.

Could it be that it was actually located quite close to the town of Crimonia?

「It's all right, because it looks like it's close to the town of Crimonia.」

「Miss, did you come from the town of Crimonia?」

「Even if I look like this, I'm an adventurer you know.」

「If miss does come and buy more, shall I transport it to the town of Crimonia?」

「Is that okay?」

「Ah yeah, because I wasn't able to sell them even in the Royal Capital, you see. If you do buy them, since the town of Crimonia is nearby, it'll be a big help to me as well.」

「Un, I'll buy them. With that, the next time you come to the town of Crimonia, can you transport them to the town orphanage? I'll talk to them about this later.」

「The orphanage?」

「Because I have an acquaintance there. Also, here is an advanced payment.」

I handed over no more than the amount I paid a short while ago.

「Are you sure? What if I don't go to town?」

「In that case, I'll go to the village to collect my money.」

「That was a joke. I'll bring them properly.」

「Once a month is okay.」

「Ah, I got it. I'm Zamal.」

「I'm Yuna. For the moment, I'm an adventurer.」

「So then, what should I do with these potatoes? If you have someplace to move them to, I can help.」

「It's fine, I will just put them away.」

I put the giant mountain-like pile of potatoes away into the Bear Box.

With this, I could create snack foods like potato chips.

I was also looking forward to french fries.

「It's the first time I've seen an item bag that can store so much. Miss, who the hell are you?」

「I'm just an adventurer. That said, I'm also registered at the Commerce Guild.」

All the potatoes which had been displayed in the stall were stowed away inside the Bear Box.

「If there's anymore, I can buy it too.」

「Those are all the potatoes I have. Besides that, I also sell vegetables, but those actually sell.」

「Other vegetables?」

「Ah yes, a fellow that came with me is selling them in another place. Those vegetable are vegetables that are sold everywhere, so it's not something that miss would be interested in.」

「Well, it's being sold among the street stalls, so if it catches my eye, I'll buy it okay?」

「Ah, just do that. So then, when would be a good time for me to go to the town of Crimonia?」

「I plan to be in the Royal Capital until the end of the birthday festival, and then, even though I'm returning, it will take over three weeks, so two months later is okay, I think?」

I didn't know how many potatoes would be left.

「I understand. I'll head there in two months.」

I parted from the potato uncle and continued inspecting the street stalls.

There was an appetizing grilled kebab, so I bought and ate it.

If I came across any unusual food, I would buy it and eat it.

For ingredients, I would put them away in the Bear Box.

If it was a never-before-seen ingredient, I would buy one as a test, and buy it in large quantities if it was delicious.

I had not gone around all the sections yet, but as expected, there was no soy sauce, miso, or rice.

I also caught sight of freshwater fish, but didn't see any saltwater fish.

Among other things, I wanted to eat sushi, but it wasn't possible to make it without rice.

In which case, even octopus or squid was fine. I wanted to eat it grilled.

To begin with, was the sea even nearby?

As I was leisurely inspecting the street stalls, a considerable amount of time had passed.

Though it was slightly early, I decided to head back.

That's right, it was for the sake of the potatoes in the Bear Box.

After I returned to the Bear House, without delay, I sliced some potatoes into thin slices and deep fried them in oil.

I heard the great sound of crackling oil, and raised them when they were crispy.

I placed them on a dish and sprinkled salt on top.

Salty potato chips complete!

Though it was regrettable that other flavors were not possible, this was delicious enough.

「Delicious.」

Ah, the nostalgic taste of potato chips.

Pori pori~

As I was munching and crunching on potato chips, Fina returned.

「I'm home.」

「Welcome home.」

「Excuse me for intruding.」

Un? It seems Noa is here too.

「What's the matter?」

Pori pori.

「Noire-sama said she wanted to see the Kuma house.」

「It's nothing much, but you can take your time looking around.」

Pori pori.

「Yuna-san, what in the world are you eating?」

「Potato chips, you know.」

Pori pori.

「Potetochippusu?」

Noa tilted her head.

「Want to try some?」

「Yes, thank you.」

「Can I have some too?」

I held out the dish before the two.

Both stuck a potato chip into their mouths.

Pori…

「It's delicious!」

「Yes, it's delicious!」

「I'm glad that you liked the taste.」

「How did you make this?」

「I only sliced potatoes into thin slices and deep-fried them in oil.」

「Po-potatoes…」

The moment they heard potatoes, their hands halted in midair.

「Big sis Yuna, if you eat potatoes, you'll get sick, you know.」

The two of them began to grow flustered.

「It's all right. The poison is in the eyes. The main body is alright. If it turns green or purple though, it is dangerous, but normally, potatoes are a delicious food, you know.」

「Is that so?」

「I was told that if I ate potatoes, I would get sick though.」

「Me too.」

「Well, the eyes and the portions that turn purple have poison. It seems like you didn't know that though.」

I extended my hand towards the potato chips on the plate, which their hands had stopped reaching for, and began to eat again.

Well, I didn't want to force them to eat something they didn't want to eat.

Which is why i was eating by myself.

Pori pori.

Bari bari.

Ahh, delicious.

I wanted to eat consomme-flavored ones.

As expected, reproducing that was impossible though.

「Yuna-san, is it really safe?」

「What is?」

Pori pori.

「The condition of your body isn't worsening or anything?」

「Of course it isn't.」

Pori pori.

「Big sis Yuna, can I have a little?」

「Sure, I still have a lot of potatoes after all.」

Fina reached out for the potato chips.

「Fina, you traitor.」

「It's not particularly a betrayal or anything. Big Sis Yuna wouldn't tell a lie, and besides, the potato chips are delicious.」

Pori pori.

Bari bari.

The two of us ate while the amount of potato chips on the plate gradually decreased.

「Yuna-san, I'll also eat it, so please!」

Because the potato chips on top of the plate had all disappeared, I would make some more again another time.

For dinner, I made french fries and this was also favorably received by Fina.

Chapter 61
Bear-san Goes To The Royal Capital's Adventurer's Guild

It was the third day since I had arrived at the Royal Capital.

I had planned to go to the Adventurer's Guild today, for the sake of reporting in Noa's escort request.

Another reason was that I wanted to see what the Adventurer's Guild in the Royal Capital was like.

Which was why I decided to have Fina go out with Noa.

It was because my appearance, combined with Fina's age, made it likely that an adventurer would pick a fight.

If it was just me, I would be able to respond to anything, but if anything happened to Fina, there was no way I could apologize to Tirumina-san.

For that reason, I headed to the Adventurer's Guild alone, while enveloped in a myriad of inquisitive gazes.

According to the explanation I received at the Commerce Guild, the Adventurer's Guild was located near my house, just a short distance down the road.

The Adventurer's Guild building of the Royal Capital was several times the size of Crimonia's.

If the guild building was several times larger, then the number of adventurers must also be several times higher.

Which meant that the possibility of being involved in some kind of incident was increased several times too, right?

Was leaving Fina behind the correct choice after all?

Even now, an adventurer with a scary expression was entering the guild.

So, I also had to enter that place from now on?

I felt like a kitten entering the cage of a wild animal.

You're also a fierce predator, a bear, right?!…I'm expecting someone to retort like that, please.

I pulled the Bear-san hood lower, so that I wouldn't make eye-contact with anyone, and entered the Adventurer's Guild.

The moment I entered, everyone's line of sight converged on me.

Bear, short girl, alone, did I have that many conspicuous factors?

A background chorus of whispering started.

「A somewhat cute Bear-san has entered, it looks like.」

「It's true, a bear.」

「A bear, huh.」

「It has a cute appearance.」

「A bear has attacked, you know! Someone subjugate it! Gyahahahahaha!」

「Hey you, you shouldn't say that, even as a joke, right? What if you terrify the girl?」

「Then, should I subjugate it?」

「If you approach it, the bear will run away, you know!」

Clatter,

I heard the sound of a chair falling.

「Bloody Bear…」

A man deep inside the interior muttered.

「It's better if you don't mess around with that bear.」

「What, you're trembling quite badly, you know.」

「It's better if you don't get involved with that guy.」

Having said those words, the man fell silent.

「What the hell is with him?」

「More importantly, someone call out to her.」

「In that case, shall I go warn her?」

A giant exceeding two meters in stature approached, laughing.

「Yo, Bear missy. What did you come here to do, with that cute appearance? This isn't a place for a young lady like you to come to.」

「I came to report the completion of a request though.」

「A request report, missy, are you an adventurer?」

「That is the case, though.」

Laughing voices leaked out from the surroundings.

「Hey hey, since when were even children like her allowed to be adventurers?」

It was a template line.

「You're a nuisance, so can you get out of my way? I have a guild card, so I'm a proper adventurer.」

「Then, I'll check to see if you have power befitting an adventurer.」

The man's hand reached out for the bear hood. I caught that hand and tossed him outside the guild.

The surrounding adventurers gaped at me with dumbfounded expressions.

「You, what did you do?」

When one person finally recovered, the surrounding people all reacted at the same time.

Then, for some reason, everyone swooped down upon me.

I don't really understand why though.

Was he a comrade?

Since everyone rushed to attack me in a similar fashion, I grabbed the arms and tossed people outside like I was tossing garbage.

I repeated this about three times.

「Umm, it's troubling if everyone quarrels inside the guild though…」

A cute-looking guild staff member warned us with a faltering, timid tone.

From her appearance, was she a receptionist?

Still, why were you saying that to me?

No matter how you looked at it, I was the victim here, right?

「Are you talking to me?」

「Yes, that's right. I'm talking to you, who looks like a bear.」

「No matter how you look at this, I'm a victim, right? The one who was attacked was me, right? The one who was surrounded by numerous men and assaulted was me, right? If you're going to warn someone, then shouldn't it be the guys who are collapsed outside?」

「That is…」

「In other words, you're saying that instead of resisting, I should let myself be hit and violated by all these men?」

「But, fighting inside the guild is not good.」

「You, is your head alright? Do you even understand the current situation?」

I questioned the receptionist.

「Hey, little girl, what do you think you're suddenly doing?」

The men I had thrown outside had come back inside.

「Hey, fighting isn't good, right? Won't you stop them?」

I pointed towards the men.

「That's…」

The receptionist froze from fear of the men who came back inside, and her speech became vague.

As I thought, it was pointless unless cockroaches were dealt with by myself.

I blasted the men who came inside back outside using wind magic.

I passed by the receptionist and headed outside.

There were five men who were trying to stand up.

「If you kneel down while apologizing, I'll forgive you. So, what will you do?」

「As if that would happen!」

I invoked wind magic that started from the ground and went up towards the sky.

The men flew up several hundred meters above the ground.

The people who were watching us were astonished.

From the ground, they were only about the size of a grain of rice, almost unable to be seen.

They gradually grew bigger.

「Gyaaaaaaaa!」

「Someone—」

「Gonna die—」

「……」

Right before they hit the ground, I made a wind cushion.

In the end, the men did not hit the ground but still ended up in a dazed state.

「Are you going to kneel?」

The men didn't seem to be listening.

Since it was troublesome, I left them alone.

「Ara ara, I thought it was noisy, but to think there was a Bear-san here.」

An elf?

A long-eared woman was looking over here while smiling.

She was a fair-skinned beauty.

「It was only because I was about to be assaulted, so I counterattacked, you know. The other adventurers inside the guild can testify.」

「Is that the case, Ran?」

The elf asked the receptionist who had been trying to warn me a short while ago.

「Erm, yes. When this Bear-san entered the guild, an adventurer inside the guild approached her. After that, Bear-san threw the adventurer outside the guild. The other adventurers who saw that were then also sent flying outside the guild, one after another. I tried to stop Bear-san, but not only did she not stop, but she was going to go finish off the adventurers.」

Hey, hey.

It was somewhat right, but also somewhat wrong.

With that explanation, it made it sound like I was the evil one.

「I see. You're the rumored Bear-san, right?」

「Well, you are?」

「I'm just the person who works as the guild master in the Royal Capital, Sanya.」

「Is Sanya-san an elf?」

Since I was interested, I tried asking.

「That's right. In truth, I was originally an adventurer, but my predecessor stepped down 50 years ago, so I became the master.」

Back when I was in town, I also happened to see an elf from time to time.

Though, I never spoke to one before.

「I heard about you from Gran. A girl with the appearance of a bear who single-handedly subdued the Zamon Band of Thieves. I thought that Gran was just exaggerating, but it seems to be the truth.」

She glanced at the dazed adventurers.

The adventurers, who had recovered slightly, were staggering and had to borrow the shoulders of other adventurers to stand.

Not a single person charged at me.

They probably didn't want to be sent flying into the sky again.

「For now, shall we go back inside?」

「Is that alright?」

「It's fine. They're just idiots picking a fight with newbies, so maybe they'll stop picking fights with the new people after this.」

I entered the guild again.

All eyes concentrated on me.

「That's why I said not to meddle with that bear.」

「Did you know about that bear?」

「Yeah, I know how fearsome and strong she is, which is why I was telling you guys to stop.」

I overheard such a conversation.

Was it possibly an adventurer who had been in the town of Crimonia?

Moreover, that timid person might be an adventurer I knocked out before.

「So then, you're at the guild to report on a request?」

「Yes.」

「In that case, can I see your guild card and your request achievement book?」

I handed over the guild card and the request achievement book that contained Eleanora-san's signature.

「It's a request for a bodyguard from the Foschurose family, is it? Okay, here is the request fee, and here's the escort fee from Gran.」

「Gran-san's?」

「Gran came the other day, you see. I was asked to take care of the request fee and the request achievement when you arrive.」

Even when I met Gran-san two days ago, he didn't say anything at all.

「I'll process Faren Gramm family's request at the same rank as the D-ranked Foschurose family's request, okay?」

Even if you say that, the D-ranked me didn't have any intention of raising my rank, so there was no meaning.

However, my guard mission success rate has been recorded on the guild card as 2/2.

If these numbers increase, it will probably leave a good impression when I try to take a bodyguard request from a stranger in the future.

Well, between 50/100 and 50/50, then 50/50 will obviously be better.

Though I accepted the bodyguard request this time, I didn't plan on taking requests from people I didn't know in the future, because travelling slowly is troublesome.

More than anything, I couldn't use the bear house, and camping outside was troublesome.

「Also, please wait a while for the matter about the Zamon Band of Thieves. The royal family's soldiers seem to have left for the subjugation, so we will do the request achievement processing as soon as that is finished.」

「Is that the case?」

「You not only arrested 50 of the thieves, but information was obtained because of that, so there are more than enough qualifications. However, since the subjugation is still in progress, please wait a while more.」

With that, I finished reporting and completed two rank D requests.

Chapter 62
Bear-san Obtains Cheese

「Also, I've been holding onto a letter from the guild master of Crimonia.」

It was the letter meant to prevent me from running into trouble.

Though, in the end, I still got into trouble.

「From Rarok?」

So the guild master's name was Rarok after all.

I just learned it.

Though, even if I had known it, I hadn't planned on calling him that.

Since he was known as the guild master.

Sanya-san read the letter.

「I understand. I want you to be careful, because it is likely for adventurers to start a fight based on your appearance. It was also written for me to lend a hand if possible, for the sake of keeping you out of trouble. It certainly would be a problem for the guild if trouble were to come up every time, so I'll pass along the message to not needlessly confront you. There were adventurers and guild staff watching your fight, so it should spread around quickly. That being said, if there are still any meddling adventurers, I'll do something about them one way or another.」

「That would be a great help, but is it fine? Normally, the guild wouldn't intervene in the quarrels between adventurers.」

「That is the rule for the guild as a whole, but it can differ depending on the policies of each guild master. If there are guild masters who are indifferent, then of course there would also be guild masters who favor particular adventurers. I have my own experiences from being an adventurer, so I understand the hardships that female adventurers go through. I am an ally of female adventurers.」

「In that case, I'll be obedient and accept. Thank you.」

「If it's your gratitude you want to give, then it is fine if you take some high ranking work, okay?」

「Was that your real intention?」

「I've never heard of anyone subjugating tiger wolves, let alone a black viper, by themselves. For you to be D rank is unbelievable.」

「Well, I've only been an adventurer for two months, and I didn't take that many requests.」

「There are also C rank requests. It's fine if you take them, okay?」

「Hmm, I'll go back for today. I'm still in the middle of touring the Royal Capital.」

「Oh, is that so? How regrettable.」

「I want to go sightseeing in the Royal Capital. Are there any places selling unusual items?」

「Unusual items?」

「Ingredients or tools, anything is fine.」

「About those. The Commerce Guild would be well-informed about that, but it should be the western district now? Various shops are lined up there.」

「The western district, right? I'll go there next time.」

I left the guild and went to the street stalls from yesterday.

When I arrived, I bought and ate snacks while I looked around the shops.

There were so many street stalls that if I had taken my time and looked around, I don't think I would've finished seeing them after several days.

After I looked around for a while, I spotted the back of some familiar peoples.

「Fina, Noa, what are you looking at?」

I called out to the two I spotted at a street stall.

「Big Sis Yuna, why are you here?」

「I finished reporting to the guild. What are the two of you looking at?」

It was somewhat boisterous up ahead.

「That old guy is selling some kind of strange food, so it looks like it became a big commotion.」

「Strange food?」

「From what I understand, it seems to be food with mold on it.」

Yes? That's it?

I moved the two of them and headed forward.

An old man and a young man could be seen quarrelling in front of the stall.

「What are you doing, selling such a thing? You're annoying the people around you!」

「This isn't just ordinary mold.」

「Mold is just mold!」

「Inside of this is edible food.」

「Can you really eat something produced by mold!?」

What I saw was cheese.

It's cheese! It's cheese!

It's good, even eaten just like that.

It's also good sandwiched in bread.

Above all, pizza can be made!

I also want to eat some gratin later.

Though, I think gratin might be impossible.

「The two of you, that's cheese.」

「Chiizu?」

「You don't know about it?」

「Yeah, I don't know about it.」

「I don't know either.」

The two of them didn't know.

Which is to say, this is a hard to obtain item.

I must obtain this without fail!

「Like I said, this is edible.」

「Nobody would eat such a thing!」

The two of them argued, but the man just one-sidedly threw complaints at the old man and didn't even listen to what he had to say.

I entered in the interval between their arguments.

「Old man, that's cheese, right?」

「That's right, so you know about it, young lady with a cute appearance?」

「What is it, suddenly coming out from nowhere. Even if a young girl gets in the way, I won't let you off!」

「Shut up already, I'm in the middle of talking with the old man.」

「You bitch…」

The man tried to grab my shoulder.

Why are all the men in this world so quick to resort to violence, I wonder?

I caught his hand, and delivered a bear punch to the man's stomach with my other hand.

The man's body bent into a ＜ character, and collapsed.

Though he lost consciousness, I made sure to hold back.

「Fuu, with that, it has quieted down. So then, old man, this is cheese, right?」

I talked to the old man as if nothing had happened.

「Ah, that's the case, but…」

The old man looked back and forth between me and the guy who had collapsed.

「So, young lady, you know about cheese?」

「I know that it's fermented from milk. I'm not familiar with the exact details though.」

「That's right. Even though you're young, you're well-informed.」

「Old man, is it okay if I try a bit?」

「Of course, go on and try some.」

The old man cut a thin slice of cheese for me using a knife.

「Big Sis Yuna, you're going to eat it?」

Fina asked me with a worried expression.

Well, that was obviously the case, considering I was going to eat something that mold was growing on.

「It's all right, you know, because the mold is only on the surface.」

I put the cheese I had received in my mouth.

The taste was slightly strong, but it was, without a doubt, cheese.

「Old man, you're selling this, right?」

「Yeah, I made this in the village. Since I needed money, I came to the Royal Capital to sell the cheese, but nobody wanted to buy it.」

As expected, it looked like cheese had not spread out much in this world.

Ignoring the guy from earlier, neither Fina nor Noa knew about it either.

「Then, in other words, it's fine if I buy it all, right?」

「Young lady, you're going to buy some?」

「It depends on the price though. How much is it?」

「It's actually sold by weight. A mass like this is around this much.」

I looked at the amount of money the old man was displaying.

「I'll buy it, everything you have, please.」

I bought it immediately.

When the negotiations were completed, it became noisy behind me.

The patrolling soldiers seemed to have come over.

「I heard that a quarrel was occurring, but- A bear…Yuna-san.」

The person who showed up was the person who had taken care of us during the matter with the group of thieves, Ranzeru-san.

「Yuna-san, what are you doing in a place like this? Besides that, I heard that a fight was happening here, but…」

「I'm shopping, as you can see. That man there was complaining about the old man's food. It became a verbal quarrel, but when I forced myself in between them, he suddenly attacked me, so I knocked him out.」

「Yuna-san, what do you think you're doing?」

「Being an ally of justice who protected the old man?」

I tilted my head to the side and looked puzzled as I answered.

「I understand. I'll close my eyes to this matter this time. Next time, it would be a great help if you could resolve things without violence.」

「It's not like I hit him because I like doing so. I only hit him because he attacked me, you know.」

「If that's really the case, then I would have to have Yuna-san come with me to the barracks to hear more specific details. Since you're Gran-sama's and Eleanora-sama's acquaintance, I won't ask you to come with me this time, but please stop causing trouble. Even if that's not the case, there are many issues elsewhere, so it's quite a burden.」

The influence of my supporters sure was reliable.

If they were my enemies though, it would be scary.

「Now then, I'll be off.」

Ranzeru-san bowed and left with his subordinates, who carried the unconscious person away.

I resumed the conversation about cheese with the old man.

「Young lady, I don't really understand what happened, but thank you.」

「It's fine, I also wanted the cheese anyway. So, are you going to sell me everything?」

「That goes without saying, it is a big help to me too.」

「If by chance you still have some, I'll buy it.」

「The item bag I have isn't capable of carrying a lot, but I brought what I could. This is all I have, but if you go to the village, there's still a lot there.」

「Is that so? Then tell me where the village is, and I'll go there to buy more next time.」

「It makes me happy to hear that, but is that necessary? I think even just this is quite a considerable amount, no?」

「I also look after some children at an orphanage, to some extent. I was thinking of serving them some dishes made with this cheese.」

「If that's the case, I understand. I'll welcome you when you come to the village.」

「Thank you.」

「No, after all, the one who should be grateful is this old man. Thank you. If I hadn't sold all this, I would have been very troubled.」

「Is that so? Then I'll pay you a little bit more.」

「Is that okay?」

「It's fine. In return, sell it to me cheaply when I go to the village, okay?」

「Ah, of course. To save me the trouble of coming to the Royal Capital would also be a big help.」

I learned the location of the village from the old man and put away all the cheese that I bought into the Bear Box.

After parting with the old man, I walked among the street stalls with Fina and Noa.

「Yuna-san, about the cheese from just now, is it really that delicious?」

Noa asked me while making an overjoyed expression.

「Hmm, it differs from person to person, I think? I like it when it's sandwiched in-between bread, and it's delicious when used in pizza. However, there are people who dislike the taste as well.」

「Umm…can you also let me have some?」

「Will you be okay?」

「Yes. It's like the time with the potatoes. If Yuna-san says it's tasty, I'll believe you.」

「In that case, shall I head back and make pizza then? Since almost everyone likes pizza.」

「I also believed in Big Sis Yuna right from the beginning, you know!」

Fina who was listening to our conversation also approved.

「Thank you, both of you.」

While recalling the ingredients stored in the Bear Box, we bought the ingredients needed for pizza before heading back to the Bear House.

Chapter 63
Bear-san Goes To The Castle

First, I started to build a stone oven in the uselessly big garden.

I had watched how it was made on TV in the past, and now I tried making it while recalling it.

This was when magic was really useful!

Even if you made a mistake, you could easily remake it after all…

It might be a product of trial and error, but here goes the Stone Oven Number One!

While I was constructing the oven, the two girls kneaded the flour.

When the dough was finished, I prepared the ingredients to put on the pizza.

We chose to use potatoes, chicken meat, peppers, tomatoes, and cheese.

They were all placed on top of the dough, which was then fed into the oven, and we waited for it to brown nicely.

The melting cheese created a nice odor that wafted through the air.

「It's good, I think?」

I took the baked pizza and cut it.

「Is that a pizza?」

「It's hot, so don't burn yourself!」

After putting the hot pizza on a plate, I gave each of them a slice.

I cut out my share too, and ate it without waiting.

It's so good when it's hot!

It's the nostalgic taste of home!

If you ordered by phone, they would deliver it in less than 30 minutes. So nostalgic!

Upon seeing me eat it with a happy face, the two of them started to eat it timidly.

「Hot! But it's delicious.」

「Really delicious!」

「Isn't it? Why is nobody eating something so delicious?」

「The thing that is stretching is cheese, isn't it? So it becomes like this when it melts…」

「The potatoes are so soft. So delicious!」

「It's because cheese and potatoes are good together.」

I wanted to make other kinds of pizza, but I didn't have the ingredients.

For example, a seafood pizza with toppings like squid, shrimp, or shellfish.

Sausage or bacon would be good too…

Well, for now, I will make do with this first one.

Not to mention, if I made all sorts of pizzas, I wouldn't be able to eat them all.

Even with just this one large pizza we made, whether we could finish it all, with just the two little girls and myself, was questionable.

「It's better when it's hot, so hurry and eat!」

While the three of us were eating pizza, I heard the sound of someone running in the distance.

「What are you all eating?」

Shia came.

「Big sister, why are you here?」

「School finished early and I got home sooner but…Noa wasn't there. I thought you would be at Yuna-san's place. And? What are you eating?」

「Pizza.」

「Pizza?」

「It's a meal where you put various ingredients and cheese on flattened bread dough and bake it.」

「It's really delicious, you know!」

「Yuna-san, could I have some of this pizza too, please?」

「Yeah, I have enough ingredients after all.」

I put the rest of the pizza on a plate and handed it over.

「You eat it with your hands?」

「Normally you use your hands to eat it, yes. If you don't want to, I have prepared a fork.」

After seeing her little sister eating with her hands,

「It's okay. I will eat it like this.」

「It's hot, so be careful!」

Shia handled the hanging cheese beautifully and ate it in one bite.

「……It's delicious.」

「Good! If everyone wants, I will bake some more.」

「I want to eat a little more.」

「Me too.」

「Me too, please.」

Answering the requests, I baked another pizza.

There wasn't a variety of ingredients. That was rather sad.

I baked the same one as before.

「Be careful and don't burn yourself.」

The three of them vigorously responded 『yes』 and began eating.

Two large pizzas disappeared beautifully into four bellies.

In the end, our stomachs were nearly bursting.

I think I will make them a little smaller next time.

The next morning, Eleanora-san came to the Bear House.

「Hello. What made you come here so early in the morning?」

「I came to see your house and eat the pizza I heard about from my daughters.」

「It's not really a meal you eat first thing in the morning.」

「Is that so?」

「There may be people who do, but you normally don't.」

If you ate it in the morning, your stomach wouldn't hold.

「Then, I will have to eat it for lunch.」

It will become two consecutive days of pizza…

「You want to eat it that badly?」

「Yesterday, my daughters didn't eat dinner. When I cornered them with questions, they said that they ate a really delicious meal called pizza at Yuna-chan's place. They talked about it with really happy faces…The fact that I was the only one who couldn't eat it really frustrates me.」

「Haa. Understood. Then, I will make it for lunch.」

「Really? Thank you. It's not really a thank you, but I will show you around the castle.」

「The castle?」

「Yes. Last time, Fina-chan said she wanted to see the interior of the castle. However, fundamentally, unauthorized people cannot enter it. If I am present though, it's another story. You will be granted access. That's why, if I let you visit the castle now, we can eat pizza at lunch time.」

That's right. The chance to tour the interior of the castle was not an opportunity that would present itself very often.

Also, I knew that Fina wanted to see it. I decided to accept this idea.

「Then, I want to finish the preparations. Let's go?」

That was why we came to the castle.

An enormous building that towered over its surroundings was right in front of me.

Two soldiers holding large lances stood in front of the entrance.

Stressed, Fina held my hand.

First of all, was it okay for me to enter with this kind of appearance?

If they stopped me at the entrance, I would just have to go back alone.

「Eleanora-sama, good morning. Who might this person be?」

「It's my guest. I wanted them to see the interior of the palace. Is that a problem?」

Eleanora-san said to the soldiers with an overpowering feeling.

「No, not at all. It's just my job to confirm the facts. Please, enter.」

The soldier saluted and let us enter.

Was that okay?

「Do the two of you have something you want to see in particular?」

「Not really…」

First of all, I didn't know what was in the castle.

「Me too. I am already satisfied.」

Fina seemed to want to go back after just passing through the gates.

Her desire to see it and the feeling of being out of place must be fighting in her heart.

「Then, let's just walk aimlessly.」

「But…is it really okay to not say anything to Noa before coming?」

「Yes. It's okay for the girl who just sleeps to stay in bed. Has Cliff really been educating her diligently? The next time I see him, I will properly give him a lecture.」

That was the reason the three of us were walking around in the castle.

If I had to use words to describe it, they would be: big, pretty, lots of people.

Everyone who passed by us bowed to Eleanora-san. Then they saw me, tilted their heads in wonder, and left.

That reminds me. What is Eleanora-san's job?

The husband, Chris, was a feudal lord, so the wife, Eleanora-san, was probably an assistant of the feudal lord?

「Eleanora-san, what is your job?」

「My job? I am the person in charge of miscellaneous jobs.」

「Miscellaneous jobs?」

「Following the knights, processing documents, advising the king, there are many things for me to do. In all honesty, I wanted to quit and go to Chris's place, but the king, prime ministers, and knights wouldn't let me. With that in mind, I will work in the castle while my daughter, Shia, is attending school. But, when it's Noa's turn to start school, I'm going to end up working at the castle again.」

Was Eleanora-san a really eminent person?

That was why everyone bowed to her.

Well, I can't really understand managerial positions though.

If I asked for more details, it might be a really scary thing, so I will stop asking.

「Then, do you want to see how the knights are doing? You have to see them practice diligently, right?」

When you leave the interior of the castle, you arrive at a small but wide area, where the knights trained.

There were a lot of soldiers in armor there.

When Eleanora-san appeared at the training field, one knight came over.

「Eleanora-sama, what are you doing in this sort of place? Is it possible that you came here to watch the training session?」

「I just came to check you didn't skip it, that's all. You can return to your training.」

The knight obediently returned to his training.

「What do you think when you see it, Yuna-chan?」

「What do I think?」

「Can you win against the knights?」

What are you asking, right in front of the knights?

「I can't win.」

I'll say that for now.

The eyes of the knights were scary.

Let's stop this conversation.

「We will be a hindrance to the knights, so let's go?」

「I wanted to see Yuna-chan fight, but…」

「I will politely reject that offer.」

「That's sad.」

I glanced back to the castle, in order to go back inside. There, a little girl was running towards us.

「It's Bear-san!!」

The child hugged my waist with a 'Bofu'.

Who?

It was a 4 or 5 year old girl.

She was wearing beautiful western clothes.

Was it possibly……

「If it isn't Princess Flora.」

I knew it.

「Why is Bear-san in the castle?」

「Bear-san is in the middle of touring the castle.」

Was Eleanora-san's response.

「Is that right?」

I nodded for now.

「I see. Then, I will guide you to my room.」

She held my hand.

What should I do? I looked at Eleanora-san.

「I see. Then, thank you for your guidance.」

Heeeeeeee!?

It's the princess, you know!

Well, it wasn't like we could refuse.

But…what would happen if we opposed her?

Actually, was it even okay to go to the princess's room?

It was the room of a royal person, you know?

I only had knowledge from manga or novels, but it wasn't really a place where a normal adventurer could go, right?

「Eleanora-san, isn't it really bad? This person is the princess, you know! I am just a commoner, you know!」

On the side, Fina just froze with a pale face.

She was probably closer to losing her soul than me, and her train of thought just stopped.

「Bear-san, you won't come to my room?」

She was looking at me with moist, upturned eyes.

I had no way to escape.

「Princess Flora, why are you here?」

「When I was strolling around the castle, everyone said that they saw Bear-san, so I have been looking for you.」

Is it possible…that it's my fault?

「Eleanora-san, is it okay if I go?」

「If I am with you, there is no problem. I will assume all responsibility.」

I had no choice but to go.

I couldn't shake my Bear Hand, which was being held by the little hand, free.

「Then, princess, could you guide me to your room?」

「Yes!」

What would happen?

Fina followed us, her face still pale.

Then, we arrived at the princess's room.

What to say. It was gorgeous.

I said gorgeous, but it wasn't a golden room. There were no pricey jars or high class paintings.

There was a beautiful carpet, a bed with a canopy, a futon that seemed really soft, and a table and chairs that seemed high class.

It was that sort of room.

The fact that we came to this room is okay, but what do we do after that?

「Princess Flora, what should we do? Read a picture book?」

「Picture books are boring!」

The book Eleanora-san brought out was the story of a princess and a prince.

It was a picture book, but the pictures were not cute.

It was only a picture book if the pictures were drawn cutely, wasn't it?

「Princess Flora, you have to learn how to read!」

「Boring!」

「Eleanora-san, do you have some papers and something to write with?」

「Yuna-chan?」

「I will draw a picture book.」

Everyone has wanted to be a Mangaka at least once.

It's not like that was what I wanted to do, but somehow, there was a time when I drew.

The time when I was a hikikomori was long.

I had lots of free time.

I also had time to draw manga.

「Yuna-chan, is this okay?」

Eleanora-san brought some paper and tools to draw with.

I received them and started drawing.

Chapter 64
Bear-san and The Little Girl

In a certain village, there was a little girl. (Picture: A little girl like Fina.)

The girl had a mother that she really loved.

Unfortunately, her mother couldn't move and just slept, due to an illness. (Picture: A mother like Terumi-san.)

The girl didn't have a father.

The girl had to work to buy medicines to cure her mother's illness.

However, there was no work for a little girl.

There was no one who wanted to employ a child, after all.

The girl decided to explore the forest to find the medicine herself. (Picture: A girl like Fina who is lost in the forest.)

There were a lot of terrifying goblins in the forest.

Even so, she had to go fetch the medicine for her beloved mother.

She searched and searched, but couldn't find any herbs.

It was dangerous, but she decided to go further into the forest.

The girl lost her way, and then was surrounded by wolves.

The girl cried: 「Help me!」

Unfortunately, nobody came to help her.

「Mother, I am sorry…」 (Picture: A girl like Fina apologizing while looking towards the sky.)

「Sorry I couldn't find your medicine…」

「Sorry…sorry…」

An apology that couldn't reach anyone.

The moment she was going to be eaten by the wolves, she closed her eyes out of fear.

However, no matter how much time passed, she wasn't struck down.

When she slowly opened her eyes, she saw dead wolves.

Why?

She looked around her.

There was a Bear-san. (Picture: A deformed bear.)

「Are you okay?」 asked the Bear-san.

「Thank you very much.」 responded the girl.

「Why are you in a place like this?」 asked the Bear-san.

Since it was the bear that asked, she replied honestly.

The Bear-san listened attentively.

Afterwards, the Bear-san asked the girl to ride on her back.

The girl got on Bear-san's back. (Picture: the girl on the deformed bear's back.)

The Bear-san ran with great speed.

The Bear-san stopped in a place with lots of medicinal plants.

The girl, overjoyed, thanked the Bear-san and started to gather the plants.

「With this, I can make the medicine for mother!」

「Thanks a lot, Bear-san!」

The Bear-san gently smiled back.

The Bear-san gave a ride to the girl's village while defeating the approaching goblins.

After arriving at the village, the Bear-san stroked the girl's head. (Picture: Bear-san caressing the head of a girl like Fina.)

After bowing for the last time, the girl started to run towards the village, where her ill mother was.

In the meantime, the Bear-san returned to the forest.

After returning, the girl prepared the medicine she had brought home.

The mother smiled while thanking her.

That made the girl smile too. (Picture: a girl like Fina and a mother like Terumi-san smiling at each other.)

Thank you, Bear-san.

Chapter 65
Bear-san Draws A Picture Book

First, I had to think about the contents of the story.

Of course, a theme with a bear would be good.

Why is that? Because this child wouldn't leave me alone.

But…Was there a picture book with a bear?

I only knew Kintaro's story book.

Ah, there was the song 「The Bear-san in the forest」 too.

I tried to recall my childhood, but there were just a lot of parts I couldn't remember.

Well, I didn't think I could write any story other than the one I knew the best.

I started sketching a little girl.

Princess Flora, at my side, just stared at me.

Was it strange seeing me draw? She was being silent.

The little girl's motif was Fina.

It was easier to sketch when there was a motif.

「Hey, that's Fina-chan!」 (Eleonora)

On the paper, I was drawing a misshapen Fina.

「Well, it's because it's Fina's real experience after all.」 (Yuna)

「Oh? Really?」 (Eleonora)

Fina, the subject, was a small distance away, nervously drinking the drink that the maid brought her.

It was rare for a maid to serve tea to a commoner, after all.

I drew a lot of pictures to go with the story.

Finally, I was drawing the scene where I, the bear, appeared.

「Ara, what a cute Bear-san.」 (Eleonora)

I drew a deformed bear (me).

It was unfortunate that there were no colours, but you could draw pretty well with just black.

「Whaaa…」 (Flora)

Princess Flora looked at the drawing with shining eyes.

「By the way, it's the first time I've seen such a cute sketch.」 (Eleonora)

「Is that so?」 (Yuna)

「I know lots of painters, but it's the first time I've seen a sketch like that.」 (Eleonora)

Was it possible that caricatures didn't exist in this world?

Well, in my previous world, there were no caricatures in the past either.

During the Edo period or the Sengoku period, if there were such cute sketches, there might not have been wars. That was the sort of stupid thing I was thinking about.

Now I was drawing the scene where Bear-san and the girl encountered each other.

「What happens to the girl?」 (Flora)

Princess Flora asked.

But that, I won't answer.

「That's a surprise for when I finish drawing it.」 (Yuna)

「Then, hurry and draw! Hurry and draw!」 (Flora)

I started writing again.

After that, I completed many drawings.

In the end, I drew the scenes where the girl went back to the village and Bear-san went back into the forest, which completed the picture book.

「Finished…」 (Yuna)

It took a few hours to finish, but I think this can be considered a masterpiece.

I wasn't a professional artist, so something like this was good enough.

I gave the drawings I made to Princess Flora.

「Bear-san, you're giving it to me?」 (Flora)

「I would be really happy if you read it.」 (Yuna)

「Thank you very much, Bear-san!」 (Flora)

She happily took the book.

「Princess Flora, that's great, isn't it? So that it won't scatter, we will bind it, okay?」 (Eleonora)

Princess Flora happily read the picture book.

It was great that it pleased her.

The fact that I drew it in a few hours wasn't thanks to the Bear suit's power, but my real ability.

I felt like it was the first time since I came to this world that my real strength served a purpose.

When I was stretching my shoulder and back muscles, there was a knock on the door and a maid came in.

「Princess, it's time to eat.」 (Maid)

「Then, shall we go as well?」 (Eleonora)

Eleonora-san got up.

Imitating her, I also got up from my chair.

「Bear-san, are you going back?」 (Flora)

When Eleonora-san told Princess Flora we were leaving, she grabbed my clothes reluctantly.

「Hmm, Princess Flora, I will come back again. 」 (Yuna)

「Really?」 (Flora)

「I will be staying in the capital for some time, so we will be able to see each other.」 (Yuna)

「Okay, understood.」 (Flora)

Her little hand let go of my clothes.

「Fina, we're going back! Don't just stay petrified!」 (Yuna)

「Big Sis Yuna?」 (Fina)

Fina came back to reality.

If Fina knew the contents of the picture book, she would faint, so I won't say anything.

We parted from Princess Flora and exited the castle.

In the end, we just visited the knights training field and the princess's room.

Well, we could enjoy the passageways and the aesthetics of the castle.

We came here so Fina could see the castle, but it was questionable as to whether Fina was able to enjoy her visit.

When we came back to the Bear House, Noa was sitting at the entrance.

Upon seeing us, she stood up and started shouting.

「Mother! Why did you go without saying anything?」(Noa)

「But, you didn't wake up.」(Eleonora)

Eleonora-san responded without batting an eye.

「And, mother, is it okay with your job?」(Noa)

「I will start this afternoon, so it's okay, and this time I just guided them in the castle. You've gone there plenty of times, so not going is okay, right?」(Eleonora)

「That's not a reason to just cast me aside!」(Noa)

「Then wake up early.」(Eleonora)

「Uhhh…I understand. But next time, properly wake me up!」(Noa)

「If you don't say 『Just a little more…』 in your sleep.」(Eleonora)

Noa grew silent with a bright red face.

「But, you did well finding me here.」(Eleonora)

「Suririna said that she saw you murmuring, 'Pizza! Pizza!,' when you departed, but I came and you weren't here.」(Noa)

「Well, in exchange for pizzas, it was decided that I would show them around the castle after all.」(Eleonora)

「Then, it's pizza time now?」(Noa)

「I will make them now. Did you eat yet, Noa?」(Yuna)

「I was sadly waiting here alone.」(Noa)

「That's why you didn't eat, right?」(Eleonora)

「I wanted to eat pizza too, after all.」(Noa)

「Then we will make them now. You two, help me.」(Yuna)

We went to the stone oven area and started to set everything up.

I say that, but yesterday's ingredients were all prepared in the Bear Box.

That was why we just had to cut the ingredients, put them on the dough and bake it.

There are four of us today, so the same size as yesterday is fine, right?

The preparations were complete and the stone oven was at a good temperature, so I put in the pizza.

The pizza was baking in the stone oven.

「What a great smell.」(Eleonora)

「I want to eat something this delicious everyday!」(Noa)

「You'll get fat.」(Yuna)

「It makes you fat?」(Eleonora)

「There is a lot of oil in it after all. It's okay to eat it a few times a month. But if you eat it too much, you'll get tired of the taste. In everything, moderation is the best.」(Yuna)

If there were different toppings, then it would be a different story.

I will have to do an ingredient search in the capital again.

In particular, rice, soy sauce, miso, and saltwater fish.

The pizza was baked, so I took it out of the stone oven.

I cut it into four parts and put each one onto a plate.

「Then, bon appetit.」 (Eleonora)

「It's hot, so be careful!」 (Yuna)

I thought it was okay, but I warned her anyway.

「Ara, it's really delicious.」 (Eleonora)

「Yes, it's delicious.」 (Noa)

While everyone was eating, I prepared to bake a second one.

Yesterday, two pizzas were too much for four people.

Today there are four of us as well, but Eleonora-san is an adult, so I think it will be the perfect amount.

「Big Sis Yuna, I will do it.」 (Fina)

「Fina, you can eat, I will finish quickly.」 (Yuna)

「But…」 (Fina)

「Don't mind it.」 (Yuna)

「Un.」 (Fina)

Fina seemed to feel sorry for me.

Even though she didn't have to.

The preparations for the second one were finished, and I decided to eat while the second one was baking.

While the second one was baking nicely, Eleonora-san finished eating.

Eleonora-san could still eat, so two pizzas for the four of us was a good amount.

「You were right. It seems oily. I would like something refreshing.」 (Eleonora)

「Then, to cleanse your palate, would you like some pudding?」 (Yuna)

「YES!」

Shouted Noa.

「Pudding? What is that?」 (Eleonora)

「It's a sweet and delicious food.」 (Noa)

Noa explained.

Yeah, she was right but…

Well, she would understand faster if she tried it, so I took it out of the Bear Box.

「Is this pudding?」 (Eleonora)

「One each.」 (Yuna)

I said that, but there were only four on the table.

They were the last ones, so there was no other way.

On the way to the capital, and in town, we ate all the other ones.

I didn't have many more eggs.

I use quite a lot of eggs when I cook.

Also, before coming to the capital, I gave away a lot of pudding.

I think I will go back to the village and secure some eggs.

「What is this? The pizza was good, but this pudding thing is great too. If you opened up a shop, I am sure it would sell.」(Eleonora)

「If you open up a store, I will come to buy this everyday.」(Noa)

The mother-daughter combo was happily praising me.

「With the current supply of eggs, I think it's impossible for now. I have to procure more of them.」(Yuna)

「You're right, eggs are a high class good. So if you want to open up a store, it will be difficult to obtain them.」(Eleonora)

I think the method of procuring eggs I was talking about and the method Eleonora-san was thinking about weren't the same.

I didn't really want the matter with the eggs to be known, so I won't correct her though.

「Then, I will go back. Yuna-chan, thanks for today.」(Eleonora)

「No problem, I got to visit the castle, after all.」(Yuna)

「Sorry about that. I didn't think we would see Princess Flora, and you even wrote a picture book for her.」(Eleonora)

「It's okay. I was in your care when I had to purchase land after all.」(Yuna)

「But that time, I helped because you took care of Cliff and Noa, you know.」(Eleonora)

「Then, the next time I have a problem, help me with it, please.」(Yuna)

「No problem. If you have some kind of problem, don't hesitate. I can deal with it to some extent.」(Eleonora)

「Who would commit a crime?」(Yuna)

「Then if you want to work in the castle, I can present you with some jobs.」(Eleonora)

「I will politely decline that offer.」(Yuna)

「Fufufu. Well then, I really must go. If I am even more late, the prime minister will be really angry.」(Eleonora)

Eleonora-san went to the castle, and the rest of us decided to visit the capital.

Chapter 66
Bear-san Does Her Best For Noa

Some days passed after we arrived at the capital.

Today, when Fina, Noa, and I were touring the capital, we met some running adventurers.

After that, we met a number of them going towards the guild.

Had something happened?

「I'll go see what happened. What do the two of you want to do?」 (Yuna)

「I'll come too.」 (Noa)

「Me too.」 (Fina)

Well, I wouldn't take a request, so it wouldn't be a problem.

When we arrived at the Adventurer's Guild, there was a crowd of noisy, worried, and anxious people.

In the middle of all this, we heard the voice of a shouting adventurer.

「What are we going to do!」 (Adventurer)

「For now, the guild master is in the middle of the investigation. There will be an announcement to the guild in a short moment, so please wait a little more.」 (Guild Staff)

A guild staff member said while doing his best to contain the crowd of adventurers.

「Big Sis Yuna, did something happen?」 (Fina)

「It seems so.」 (Yuna)

I decided to try to find someone that would be able to explain.

I found Marina, the adventurer we met during our trip to the capital.

「Marina, did something happen?」 (Yuna)

「Yuna!」 (Marina)

「Everyone seems so uneasy.」 (Yuna)

「Ah, it seems that a group of monsters has been seen. Apparently, a lot of adventurers died when that happened. The guild dispatched an investigation team upon hearing the report. They just came back, but it doesn't look like good news.」 (Marina)

「Is there any news we know of?」 (Yuna)

「A group of goblins, wolves, and orcs have been found, and some adventurers saw wyverns, too.」 (Marina)

「Were there wyverns near the capital?」 (Yuna)

「How would that be possible? I have never heard of wyverns near the capital.」 (Marina)

While I was listening to the story, the guild master, Ms. Sanya, came from the interior of the guild.

The guild became even noisier with her appearance.

「I will announce the result of the investigation, so be quiet!」 (Sanya)

The guild became quiet at her words.

「From the information the scouts came back with, there is an assembly of more than ten thousand goblins and wolves. More than that, there are 500 orcs. We couldn't

confirm the number of wyverns, but they have been seen with this mobilization.」(Sanya)

After hearing her words, the adventurers became noisy again.

「You won't say that we have to exterminate all that by ourselves, right?」(Adventurer)

「This message is being carried to the castle as well. We will probably join forces with the soldiers to eliminate the threat.」(Sanya)

「Do we have the time to wait for them?」(Adventurer)

「For now, there aren't any soldiers that can mobilize, but it is just a matter of time.」(Sanya)

「Why? This has never happened before!」(Adventurer)

「No, there was a report of orcs coming onto the main road and there was a report saying the number of goblins and wolves are increasing. That's why we have to stop their advance to the west.」(Sanya)

The west, that was where Crimonia was, right?

When Noa heard it, she became pale.

「Father will…!」(Noa)

「Is it possible that the plans he had were…」(Yuna)

「Yes, I think it was going to happen very soon.」(Noa)

「He must have an escort with him, so as long as he isn't attacked by the horde, it will be okay.」(Yuna)

「Yes…」(Noa)

However, Noa's face was still tense.

「Fina, I'm sorry, but could you bring Noa back to her house?」 (Yuna)

「And what will you do, Big Sis Yuna?」 (Fina)

「I will listen to the story for a bit longer. Maybe all adventurers will have to participate, so when I go back, I will sleep tight.」 (Yuna)

「Understood.」 (Fina)

Fina took Noa and left the guild.

「It's impossible! We can't win against that many!」 (Adventurer)

「We are calling the upper ranked adventurers now.」 (Sanya)

「And in the meantime?」 (Adventurer)

「That, I don't know. I will have the adventurers divided by ranks to participate in the extermination. E-ranks and D-ranks will exterminate goblins and wolves. C-ranks and higher will exterminate orcs. When that is finished, I will have them exterminate the wyverns. F-ranks will be behind, providing materials and giving treatment to the wounded. We will meet at the west gate and leave tomorrow morning. Prepare your own things. Are there any other questions?」 (Sanya)

「What is the reward?」 (Adventurer)

「I will separate it by rank. After all, it would be impossible to separate it by kills.」 (Sanya)

「In the case we kill any wyverns, what do we do with the materials?」 (Adventurer)

「This time, the monsters will be taken by the guild. It doesn't matter how many one person kills. This is an emergency request. All other requests will be suspended for the time being. There will be a ban on leaving the capital at every gate, so don't forget that.」 (Sanya)

If you didn't hurry, you wouldn't be able to get out of the city, huh.

When I got the information I wanted and exited the guild, Fina and Noa, who I asked to go back, were still there.

「What are the two of you doing here?」 (Yuna)

「Yuna-san, do you think my father is okay?」 (Noa)

「Tomorrow morning, the adventurers will depart. If they join him during the travel, I think he will be okay.」 (Yuna)

The problem was, when would the monsters move?

It resembled a game event, but if you died, you wouldn't revive, right?

「Noa, I am sorry, but I will leave Fina with you, okay? If she was alone, I would worry, after all.」 (Yuna)

「No problem.」 (Noa)

「Then, I'm counting on you, okay?」 (Yuna)

Noa had her mother and the maids, but it was better if Fina wasn't alone for too long.

「Big Sis Yuna, don't die, okay?」 (Fina)

「It's just impossible for me to die, right?」 (Yuna)

I patted the two girls' heads.

After I separated from them, I ran to the west gate. I wanted to arrive there before the guild staff.

I showed my guild card to the guard.

The guard didn't have a reaction.

It seems I was in time.

When I stepped outside, I summoned Swaying Bear.

I would feel really bad to let an acquaintance die.

I went towards Crimonia.

Swaying Bear ran at top speed.

It covered the distance faster than a horse.

Since I became stronger, maybe my bears became stronger, too.

No mistake, he was faster than he was the first time I summoned him.

In a very short time, I arrived at the place that took us five days of travel to come from while using a carriage.

Gran's carriage had been attacked by orcs close to this place.

I found a large quantity of monsters by using the detection magic while running.

It was in this forest.

I saw a forest in the distance.

The monsters hadn't moved yet.

What to do?

Do I meet with Cliff, or exterminate the monsters?

I didn't know about the wyverns, but even if I was attacked by goblins or wolves, I wouldn't be injured, thanks to the protection of the Bear armor. Although I would be blown away if I received the orcs' attacks, that was it.

I could counterattack afterwards.

No choice. I will do my best just this once.

For the sake of my peaceful life.

I directed Swaying Bear towards the forest.

Chapter 67
Bear-san Is Peerless

The results from the detection magic showed that the monster horde was scattered all throughout the forest.

In the middle of the forest, goblins, wolves, and orcs were separated into different groups.

If the number of monsters in the report was correct, there were 5000 goblins.

However, the problem was neither their strength nor their numbers.

The problem was that I didn't know if I had enough magic power.

Up to now, I have never used my magic power to the point of depletion. Just how much magic power I had, or how much of it I could release, I didn't know at all.

In the game, there was MP, magic points. In this world as well, there was a maximum magic power capacity.

However, I didn't know how to investigate it. Maybe there was one.

Hence, I didn't know how much magic power I had.

Also, unlike the game, the magic power you used was not fixed.

In the game, you would consume 10 MP when you cast a fireball. In this world, there weren't any standards regarding that.

Even if it was the same fireball, you could charge your magic power, and like that you could infinitely increase its power. In terms of MP, you could use 5, 20 or 50.

I didn't know how much magic power I could charge up.

This battle wouldn't be against monsters, but against the amount of magic power I could use.

「Swaying Bear, thanks for all your work until now.」

I caressed Swaying Bear's head as reward for running from the capital without a break until now.

Then I recalled Swaying Bear and summoned Hugging Bear.

「Hugging Bear, from now on, we will be running nonstop through packs of monsters, so I am counting on you!」

I caressed Hugging Bear's neck.

As I finished my preparations, I hopped on Hugging Bear and entered the forest.

Just after I entered the forest, a small number of goblins started to approach.

I instantly invoked wind magic and cut their heads off.

It was auto homing magic, a magic where you locked onto a target, then fired. After that, it would automatically seek at the target.

While using detection magic, I cut the goblins' necks.

A white bear ran through the forest.

At the same time, goblins' necks were cut.

I didn't count, but I think around 1000 heads were cut.

My magic power had not dried up yet.

I launched magic in the direction of a pack of goblins.

In Hugging Bear's path, there were goblin corpses without heads lying around.

A white shadow and wind magic ran through the forest.

Through detection magic, I could see that packs of goblins were disappearing. Only a few of them remained.

I didn't know how many monsters I had killed.

I still had plenty of magic power remaining.

In the game, I would have known how many points I would have left though.

From my position, on the right there was a pack of wolves, on the left was a horde of orcs, and lastly, in the center were wyverns.

Since I didn't know exactly when my magic power would dry up, I decided that exterminating the orcs would be more important than the wolves.

I postponed the extermination of the wyverns.

I had fought them in the game, but not in this world.

Fighting the monsters you knew you could fight first was the normal strategy in games.

It was really troublesome if the small fries surrounded you during a tough fight.

I brought out oren juice from the Bear Box and took a little break.

As I drank the oren juice, I asked Hugging Bear to go where the orcs were stationed.

「Hugging Bear, I'm sorry. Hang on for just a little bit longer.」

I hadn't killed even half of the monsters.

A few minutes later, I encountered the horde of orcs.

Unlike what I had done for the goblins, I increased the magic power charge of wind magic.

A goblin's and orc's neck strength was vastly different after all.

「It would be great if I could cut off their heads with twice the magic power.」

I fired the wind magic towards the orcs.

The orcs' heads were cleanly cut.

No problem, it seemed.

There were approximately 500 orcs.

Unlike the goblins, the orcs had higher endurance, and their strength was on an entirely different level.

That was why I would only kill them with ranged attacks.

The orcs brandished their weapons and rushed towards me with an abnormal speed for giants.

As Hugging Bear ran, some arrows came flying at us.

Orc Archers!

In the game as well, there were orcs that used bows and arrows.

The projectiles were really troublesome.

I wrapped Hugging Bear with wind magic.

There was magic coming at us as well.

「Are there Orc Mages too?」

The Orc Archers were using bows.

The Orc Mages were using staves.

The Orc Lancers were using huge lances.

The rest were using swords.

So annoying.

Numbers were numbers. With earth magic, I created 30 Earth Bear Golems.

At that moment, for the first time, I had the sensation of my magic being drained from me.

Was that a little too much?

The Bear Golems ran to the orcs and stabbed the throats of the orcs with sharp nails.

I cut off their heads, too.

Even if the Bear Golems were pierced by arrows, they didn't stop. They could block magic, and if they had wounds, I could use magic to repair it.

Wherever the golems and I went, a path of orc corpses was created.

「I still have magic power…」

I made sure I had magic power in my body.

「Just the wolves and the wyverns are left for elimination.」

I fought this much, but thanks to the Bear suit, I didn't have much fatigue.

「Let's persist a little more.」

The place where the wyverns were…

They didn't budge from the center.

To restore a small amount of magic power, I changed to the white bear suit.

There wasn't anybody here, right?

When I wore the white bear suit, it made me warmer, and I could tell that my magic power was being restored.

Now a white bear, I started fetching the corpses of the orcs and put them into the Bear Box while going back to the place where I killed the goblins.

I took the swords, bows, and staves as spoils of war as well.

In the end, the only things that remained were the heads I had cut off.

They were heads, you know? It was disgusting going near them, and it seemed that it wasn't a part you could use. I just had no need to bring them back.

That was why the road I took turned from a path of orc corpses to a path of orc heads.

After I finished gathering the corpses, I decided to take a short break in my white bear suit.

When I sensed that a good part of my magic power was back, I changed to the black bear suit.

Now, let's go kill some wyverns!

I hopped back onto Hugging Bear and rode to the wyverns' location.

When I thought about it, even though I made so much noise while fighting, the wyverns hadn't budged at all.

Was there a reason why?

When I approached the wyvern pack, I found out why…

「They're sleeping.」

Was it possible that somebody made them fall asleep?

I didn't really know why, but I will kill them before they wake up.

I approached the wyverns silently, and cut their heads off one by one.

It ended anticlimactically.

Even though their companions had their necks cut right beside them, they didn't wake up.

When I finished killing the wyverns, I put their corpses into the Bear Box.

Was it okay that it was so easy to collect wyvern materials?

When I finished collecting the corpses, the earth started to tremble.

「What?」

The ground was rising.

I jumped back.

In the game there were monsters that came from the ground as well.

Monsters like giant caterpillars or earthworms that opened immense holes and crawled out of them.

I didn't notice it with detection magic.

Did the detection magic not reach deep underground? Or could I not detect it because it was under the wyverns?

「So disgusting.」

A worm was coming out of the ground. It was bigger than the Black Viper.

The worm turned to face me.

Lots of saliva was drooling from its mouth.

The worm saw me as food.

A really big mouth was attacking me.

I dodged by jumping back.

It was big, but fast.

Even in the game, it was a monster I didn't fight because of how disgusting it was.

It was said that when you attacked its skin, fluid scattered and a foul odor propagated.

Immediately afterwards, the skin regenerated. A really troublesome monster.

However, I had Bear Magic now.

With the same strategy I used to kill the Black Viper, I can kill this worm.

I created 10 fire bear cubs and made them run into the big open mouth.

The worm, thinking that they were food, hungrily tried to eat them.

The cubs, which had disappeared into the worm's mouth, didn't stop burning.

I thought that was the best magic against a giant life form.

Even if the exterior was strong, the interior was tender.

The worm thrashed on the ground for some time before it stopped moving.

「Hmm, will this sell?」

It seemed there were some places where people eat caterpillars, but I didn't think someone would eat that…

Even if Fina and the rest ate that, I didn't want to feed them something like this.

For now, let's dispose of it, and I will think about it later.

If it becomes money, then it's all good.

I placed the dead worm in the Bear Box.

Just the wolves remained.

I had magic power remaining, so I went to kill the wolves.

I dispatched the wolves easily.

The biggest task was putting the wolves inside the Bear Box.

I made the Bear Golems transport them to me and then placed them inside the Bear Box.

I put the last one in.

With that, the monster hunt was completed.

I hopped on Hugging Bear and got out of the forest, which reeked of blood.

The air was good.

When I looked at the sky, the sun had gone down, and it was evening.

I took the trip-only Bear House out and decided to stop here for a night.

Why was it that, even if my body wasn't really tired, I felt really tired.

It had to be something like the tiredness of the soul.

I ate a simple dinner, and after I bathed, I went directly to my bed and drifted into the world of dreams.

Chapter 68
Bear-san Negotiates

When I woke up, it was a few hours after sunrise.

I had overslept a little, but I didn't have to rush back.

I took my time with breakfast, and when I went out, I saw a familiar face…

「Cliff?」

「I knew it. This Bear House is Yuna's.」

「Why are you here?」

「That's my line. I'm going to the capital, of course.」

When I looked around, there were six of Cliff's guards.

They were the guards I had seen at his place.

They were all on horses, not using a carriage.

This sort of forced march journey was impossible for Noa, I thought. That was probably why he entrusted her to me.

「I came to pick you up, Cliff. But, now that it's no longer necessary, I'm going back to the capital.」

「Pick me up?」

「There was a horde of monsters around here, and it made Noa worried.」

「But, if it's no longer necessary, that means you killed them all, right?」

「……」

I couldn't really obediently nod here.

If this sort of thing got out, there was no doubt that it would become a real pain.

There was a possibility that my peaceful life would crumble.

After all, I killed more than 10,000 monsters, and I even killed a Worm.

Yeah, what to do?

「Well, for you, who killed a Black Viper, a monster horde is no problem, right? In reality, you already subjugated a horde of goblins, and you even got the Goblin King's sword.」

It seemed that to Cliff, the one who killed all the monsters was me.

If I told him how many monsters there were, what kind of face would he make?

However, if I didn't deny it now, it would become problematic when we arrived at the capital.

Maybe it would have been better if I had left earlier.

I wanted to say that to the past me.

Though saying that now was just useless.

「Cliff, can I use the debt you owe me now?」

「What's with that serious expression? It's a fact that I owe you a debt, but I can't agree to your demand before hearing what you want. First let's talk about it, after that I will see.」

「Then is it okay to talk inside the house?」

I said after looking at the guards.

「Understood. You all, you can take a break here.」

Cliff gave an order to his guards and entered the Bear House.

After entering the Bear House, I had Cliff seated and started explaining.

The fact that in this forest there were 10,000 goblins and wolves, 500 orcs, and 50 wyverns, and the fact that the capital was preparing to deal with it.

That Noa was on the brink of tears because Cliff was travelling towards the capital.

Which made me come here to escort him.

But before I could find him, I discovered the horde.

And that I exterminated them all.

Finally, the fact that I killed a giant Worm, which wasn't in the Guild's report.

「Right now, I really am regretting the fact that I heard all that, but I'm also really thankful. You have my gratitude.」

Cliff lowered his head slightly.

In novels or manga, a noble lowering his head to a commoner was a rare thing.

「It was for Noa's sake, so don't worry about it. If you weren't her father, I would have abandoned you after all.」

「I see, I will have to thank Noa, too. Your request is for me to keep silent about you subjugating them, right?」

「I don't want to stand out after all.」

「Why? You could become a hero. You could have wealth and honor.」

「Not interested, and it would be too much of a bother if I was summoned. I just want to live happily and peacefully. That's why I want to end this case peacefully.」

「But 10,000 monsters, 500 Orcs, Wyverns and a giant Worm, huh? I can't believe it.」

「Then do you want to see them?」

「Yes, for now I will have my soldiers investigate the forest. I only have your words, after all.」

Cliff exited the house and ordered his soldiers to investigate the forest. The soldiers, tilting their heads in confusion, obeyed Cliff's orders and left to search the forest.

「With that, nobody will see, right?」

Taking my feelings into consideration, he had all his soldiers go away.

The moment I could no longer see his subordinates, I took out all of the wyverns.

I took out the corpse of the Worm, too.

Now that I looked at it again, it was grotesque.

I hate every type of creepy-crawly.

I, the hikikomori, hadn't touched a bug since kindergarden.

For someone like me, it was impossible to like them.

Cliff also looked at the Worm like he couldn't believe its size.

「Should I take out the orcs as well?」

「No, it's okay. Put them away.」

Cliff held his head again and thought.

「I wish it was a joke.」

「It would be preferable if you didn't talk about what happened.」

「From your story, the adventurers and soldiers from the capital are coming here, right? It will surely be a problem if they don't know who killed them, you know!」

「Nobody saw the worm, and if you don't talk, they won't know it was me.」

「You…」

He had a stunned expression.

「For now, you have to at least report this to the guild master, or it won't be settled. After that, the guild master will handle the situation and stop the march of the Adventurers and Soldiers.」

The result was that we would have to discuss it with the guild master.

After that, the die was cast.

Cliff and I decided to go to the capital while we waited for the inspection of the forest to finish.

I had to adjust my speed to that of a horse, so my speed was slower than when I came.

Two days later, we could see the party of adventurers.

Thanks to good timing, they were taking a break.

So that I would not surprise the adventurers, I recalled Swaying Bear, hopped on Cliff's horse and joined the adventurers.

「Ara, isn't it the runaway Yuna-chan?」

When we found the guild master, she said this.

It seemed that I was labeled as a runaway.

Well, I was in the guild with my Bear costume.

Lots of people had to have seen me, and just after that, I had left the capital, so it was normal to think I had run away.

「And this person is…?」

「It's been a while Sanya, about a year?」

「…Cliff, long time no see. I've been in the care of your wife.」

「I see, she is doing well too, huh.」

「So, why are you here with Yuna-chan?」

「Ah, it was my daughter's request, she asked her to be my escort.」

「Still, that doesn't change the fact that she ran away from the mission this time. All other quests are on hold after all.」

「However, that only applies once the guards at the gate have been informed. She left before that.」

「That's…」

「Your messenger was too slow. That's why Yuna doesn't have to be punished.」

「Understood, but from here on out, I will have Yuna-chan participate in this monster hunt. We cannot afford to let the girl that can defeat Tiger Wolves and Black Vipers alone go back to the capital like this.」

「About that, can we talk a little?」

「What is this, so suddenly?」

Cliff confirmed that there was nobody around him.

「It's about the case. Something troublesome happened, that's why we need your power as the guild master.」

「What?」

「Including the wyverns, Yuna defeated the 10,000 monsters alone.」

「……Huh?」

「And there's more, there was a giant Worm.」

「…A giant Worm?」

「Yeah, she showed me the corpses. I didn't personally go into the forest to see the proof, but I think it's okay to believe her. She doesn't have any reason to lie, after all.」

「Fame, wealth.」

「Yuna said that she doesn't want it. On the contrary, she wants us to stay quiet about her defeating the monsters. She has the peculiarity of wearing this sort of clothing, and she herself said she wants to live peacefully.」

「Hum, is this a joke?」

「What is? The fact that she exterminated the monsters, or the fact that she wants to live peacefully with this sort of clothing?」

「Both.」

「Both are true it seems.」

It seems that these two were saying anything they wanted while I was calmly listening!

「That's why we came to speak with you.」

「…Yuna-chan, explain it all in detail.」

Sanya-san turned in my direction.

I explained what happened in the forest.

「In other words, in the forest there are 5000 goblin corpses and 500 orc heads, right?」

「I didn't count them all, though. I just assumed the number was the same as the amount stated in the report you gave in the guild.」

「I don't know the number, but my soldiers confirmed a great amount of goblin corpses in the forest.」

Sanya held her head.

「Is it okay to be glad? Or should I be troubled? I can't decide.」

「You should be glad.」

「Yuna-chan, is it really okay? You could be a hero, obtain fame, honor, and wealth, you know.」

「Don't need it.」

See, if I were to lose my freedom in exchange, I didn't want it.

「Understood. Let's think optimistically. The extermination was completed without anyone dying. The problem is, who did it, right? Let's prepare a script, so that we're all on the same page.」

「What do we do?」

「An A-rank adventurer party came and hunted them down. After that, they took all the materials with the exception of the goblins before departing.」

「And who will you choose from the A-ranks?」

「Anybody is fine. It just has to be an unknown A-rank.」

「What do we do with the Worm?」

「You just have to not talk about it.」

The story was made.

Sanya-san assembled all of the adventurers and explained the situation.

「All of you, listen! All of the 10,000 monsters and the wyverns have been killed by an A-rank adventurer!」

「An A-rank adventurer?」

「That's right. All that remains are the corpses of the goblins with their magic stones and the heads of the orcs. That's why, I will have you separate into two groups. One group will return to the capital and the other will clean up the goblins.」

「Are there really no more monsters?」

「None, why would I lie? The remunerations are the goblins' magic stones. However, after you finish extracting the stone, get rid of the corpse. Those who go back won't be remunerated. Feel free to decide what you will do.」

After Sanya's explanation, almost all the adventurers with a level higher than D decided to go back.

The lower ranks, coveting the 5000 goblin stones, decided to continue forward.

The guild master Sanya decided to go with the dismantling force to see the actual site.

「Cliff, thank you.」

「Don't worry about it. It should be me thanking you.」

「Then I will go back first.」

「You don't want to go back together?」

「With my bear, I can arrive in a few hours after all.」

「I see, that's amazing.」

I summoned Swaying Bear and headed to the capital.

Chapter 69
Bear-san, In The Middle Of An Incident

This is the story of a magician.

Ten years ago, this magician had been banished from the capital.

As a result, he swore that he would get his vengeance.

'I only used a prisoner as a sacrifice, but they banished me from the capital after cutting off one of my arms.'

He couldn't forgive the king.

Just killing him wouldn't do.

'I'll destroy the country that he loves.'

'I'll destroy it!'

'I'll kill all of his citizens.'

'I'll grant him despair.'

'I'll present the scene of his country's destruction to him without killing him.'

10 years have passed since he swore that.

5000 goblins.

5000 wolves.

500 orcs.

50 wyverns.

One Worm.

'I have assembled them. I have assembled them.'

'Now is the time for my vengeance.'

The man was delighted.

‘I am finally at this point.’

His body was worn out, and his life force was fading from him.

However, his mind was focused only on revenge. He was living for the sole purpose of driving the king to despair.

The magic that controlled the monsters was one that drained his life force.

‘But, I will offer this life for revenge.’

‘First, I will see the king’s face in despair.’

The man went to the capital and snuck into the castle.

Since the man had worked there before, he knew one or two ways to infiltrate the castle.

Thus, he entered the office of the king without being noticed.

「Bastard, who are you?」

「Did you forget? It’s me, Gruzam, the man you banished.」

「…Gruzam.」

The king couldn’t recognize the face of this withered man.

He couldn’t remember because of how different the face was compared to a decade ago, and the simple fact that this man was now in the castle.

「Long time no see.」

「Why and how did you come here?」

「Of course, I came here by infiltrating the castle. Ah, don’t bother calling the guards. I just came here to talk.」

「Talk?」

「By now, a monster horde has been found near here, right? It must be so terrible.」

「Why would someone like you know of this?」

「That's because I was the one who assembled them to take my revenge against you.」

「Revenge, you say?」

「Yes. Revenge, grudge, spite, you can call it what you want. I just want to see your face full of despair.」

「Then you've seen plenty already.」

The king knew about the number of monsters, but he was worried nonetheless.

There would be some damage, after all.

「No, not enough. I want to see you despair at the sight of your country being destroyed by wyverns, your citizens killed by orcs, goblins and wolves wandering on your territories, and seeing the children being slaughtered.」

Gruzam was delighted just imagining it.

「Bastard…」

「It's useless even if you kill me, you know. It's not like I came here without any means to break out.」

The king lowered the sword in his hands.

「If I invoke my magic now, the monsters will come to the capital. Then in a few days, the capital will be attacked by monsters, I assume. The magic will also be activated if I'm killed. In any case, you will just have to watch it in silence.」

「There are adventurers, knights, and soldiers in this country. I don't think that it will be that easy to finish off the capital.」

「Of course, I don't think it will be entirely destroyed. Just half of it is okay. I will be really happy by just having the wyverns destroying the gates and have the monsters invade after that. Just with that, how many citizens will be killed, I wonder.」

A smile floated on Gruzam's face.

「The adventurers have already left to eradicate the monsters. The soldiers are also preparing themselves. The adventurers and the soldiers may sacrifice themselves, but they will protect the citizens.」

「The adventurers won't vanquish the monsters.」

「What?」

「I have prepared a giant Worm. The adventurers will surely become good snacks, and the Worm will then come to the capital looking for more.」

「Bastard!」

「If they can't kill the Worm, there will be no one to kill the goblins and the wolves. This country will be destroyed. That's why I will be able to see your despairing face.」

「Don't screw with me!」

「I am not joking. It's the monsters I assembled with my life. Urgh.」

Blood sprayed from Gruzam's mouth.

「The magic to control the monsters, as you can see, isn't really convenient. It burns my magic power and my life. It's sad that I won't be able to see your bitter face to the end, but until then, I will help myself and enjoy.」

Gruzam invoked his magic.

All of his magic power was eaten.

Even Gruzam's last sliver of life was taken away from him.

「Gruzam!」

「With that, the Worm shall wake up, and the wyverns and other monsters will come to the capital. I will be looking at your desperate face from somewhere, and watch the destruction of the capital too.」

Smiling painfully, Gruzam disappeared.

「Gruzam!!!」

The scream didn't reach Gruzam.

「What happened, Your Highness?」

Having heard the scream of the king, an imperial soldier rushed inside.

「Call Zhang right now!」

「Yes!」

The imperial soldier ran off after saluting.

Not long after that, Zhang, an elder with a moustache, entered the room.

He was the prime minister of this country.

「Your Highness, you called me?」

「Send the knights, the soldiers, and the magicians to the monster extermination.」

「Eleonora is doing the preparation now.」

「Inform them that, among the monsters, there is a Worm. Ask them to prepare a counter plan, too.」

「A Worm?」

「That's right. If we don't do something, the adventurers will be all killed for no reason.」

「Your Highness, where did you hear this information?」

「There is no time. I will explain it later, so for now, hurry.」

「Yes.」

Zhang left the room while rushing.

「Make it in time!」

He thought that, but how many deaths would be necessary to bring down a Worm?

It wasn't difficult to figure out that Gruzam had prepared everything for the birthday party, when a lot of people had assembled in the capital.

If it was not defeated, the damage would be astronomical!

「Dammit, are there no other countermeasures?」

The adventurers had already departed from the capital, and the knights, soldiers, and magicians departed the next day.

Three days later, incredible news arrived.

An A-rank adventurer had killed all of the monsters.

The king's mouth was agape.

It was a letter from the guild master that brought the news.

It was trustworthy.

It brought him relief, but really, who was this A-rank?

Was it a coincidence that he was there?

There were some questions remaining, but for now, the danger had been avoided.

The only thing left to do was find Gruzam, who was somewhere in the capital.

However, when the king was alone in his room, Gruzam reappeared.

「What is the meaning of this? The adventurers and soldiers came back.」

「It seems that all the monsters that you had prepared have been killed by an A-rank adventurer.」

「An A-rank adventurer? That's impossible! All the high ranking adventurers should be away. I sent them away, after all.」

「I don't understand it either, but this was all written in a letter from the guild master.」

「That's a lie! Urgh.」

Gruzam vomited blood.

「Will I die before my revenge is fulfilled? All because of an unknown adventurer? My plan should have been perfect…」

Gruzam looked at the king with a face full of despair.

「Why? Why are you laughing?」

「With that, it's over.」

The king took his sword and slew Gruzam.

Gruzam had neither the strength nor the will to dodge now.

He couldn’t enact his revenge. It had been the sole thing that permitted him to stay alive.

The king called the imperial guards to deal with Gruzam’s corpse.

「I will have to thank this adventurer.」

He protected the country, the citizens, and the lives of the adventurers and the soldiers, after all.

Chapter 70
Bear-san, Meeting With The King

I returned first and went to Noa's mansion to fetch Fina.

The capital was still noisy.

Well, a fast messenger would come tomorrow and it would settle down.

When I arrived at the residence, Suriri-san, who I made the flower bed with, took me to the living room.

After she told me to wait a little, I heard running, and the door burst open.

「Big Sis Yuna!」

「Yuna-san!」

Both Fina and Noa entered the room.

「You two, were you alright?」

「More importantly, are you okay, Big Sis Yuna?」

「Yuna-san, how is Father doing?」

「It's fine! The monsters have been exterminated, and I made sure Cliff was okay. He will probably arrive within a few days, I think.」

「Really?」

The smiling Noa was back.

「Noa, thank you for looking after Fina.」

「Not at all, she is my friend, so it's natural.」

「Noa-sama…」

Fina seemed happy.

The day after I got back to the capital, the messenger arrived. After that, the soldiers and adventurers gradually came back and talked about the mysterious party of adventurers.

In the middle of this, Cliff also arrived.

The guild master Sanya-san returned the day after that, and I was ordered to report to the guild.

「Welcome, Yuna-chan.」

「So, did you need something?」

「Yes, there is a little problem, you see.」

She continued talking while avoiding eye contact.

「The king, you see, wants to meet with Yuna-chan, or more specifically, the imaginary A-rank adventurer.」

「The king wants…I can refuse, right?」

「That's…He said that he wanted it at all costs, you see. He keeps asking for your name. Of course, I didn't talk about you, Yuna-chan.」

The king = BIG TROUBLES.

The formula appeared in my head.

「Sanya-san, thank you for taking care of me. I will go on a journey, so please don't search for me.」

I recited a phrase that often came out in templates.

「Wait a minute! If you run, there will be a wanted poster! If you run, I will tell him your name!」

「Is that a threat?」

「I am talking about finding a compromise. You don't want anyone to know about what you did, right?」

「Yes.」

「Then, what about just talking about it with the king? I will ask his Highness to not tell anyone else!」

「You can do something like that?」

He was the king of a country.

Didn't she understand that?

Not to mention, an unknown adventurer wouldn't be able to see the king without guards in the room.

「He's a man of his word, so if we can make him swear, it will be possible.」

「And if he doesn't?」

「At the worst, you will become a hero or receive a medal. Ah, you may have to do a handshake with the king during the birthday event.」

「Hmm, how far do I have to walk to go to another country? If possible, a country far enough away that this country won't have any influence there.」

「That's why, Yuna-chan, won't you give me one day? If his Highness swears, won't you meet him? It won't be too late to run after that, right?」

She was right. I just had to run if he was about to make me a hero.

I unwillingly accepted Sanya-san's proposal and left the guild.

Afterwards, I returned and leisurely passed time in the Bear House. Sanya-san came in the evening.

「Sorry for coming at this late hour.」

「No problem. So, did you finish talking to the king?」

「Yes, his Highness will see you alone.」

「Will it really be just the king? He's the king, you know. What would happen if I was an assassin?」

「I will be present as well, just in case. His Highness also absolutely wants to meet and thank the one who killed the monsters, it seems. That's why he accepted all of my requests.」

If he went to that extent, I couldn't refuse.

「Then, when do I have to go see him?」

「Tomorrow morning, I will come and get you.」

Then, I'll ask the most important question.

「Is it okay to go with this kind of clothing? Though, if it's impossible, I will leave the capital today.」

If I didn't have the Bear Suit, I wouldn't be able to escape.

「It's okay. I asked his Highness if he wanted to see you even if you wore strange clothes, and he responded that it was no problem, after all.」

Even though my mood was still heavy, the next day came.

I was praying that Sanya-san wouldn't come, but my prayer apparently didn't reach the heavens, because she came to pick me up.

I asked Fina to take care of the house and went to the castle with Sanya-san.

When we entered the castle, someone I didn't want to see was standing there.

「Ara? Yuna-chan. What are you doing here with the guild master?」

We met Eleanora-san, who was walking around in the castle.

There was a high chance that I would see Eleanora-san, since she worked at the castle.

However, meeting her even though the castle was so vast, what was with this bad timing?

「Eleanora-sama, good morning. Yuna-chan and I had a little business in the castle.」

「Ara, is that so? Where are you going? I will come as well.」

「No, that's…」

「Ara, don't be so reserved. I have some free time, after all.」

「Is it okay with your job?」

「My subordinates are excellent, so there's no problem.」

Sanya-san was troubled with those words.

Of course, I was troubled too.

After seeing our faces, Eleanora-san burst into laughter.

「Fufu, sorry. Don't make such troubled faces. I heard the story about the monsters from Cliff, after all. Of course, I didn't talk about it with anyone, so don't fret. You are going to meet with the king now, right?」

「Your personality is really rotten, Eleanora-sama.」

「But, that's because Yuna-chan didn't say anything to me!」

「I didn't have any choice, Eleanora-san. You are affiliated with the castle, after all.」

「That's not a reason to muzzle Cliff, right? It was really hard to make him talk, you know?」

Cliff did his best, huh?

With that, I wanted to be angry, but I couldn't.

Still, how did she make him talk?

「If you have already heard the story, Eleanora-sama, do you really want to come with us?」

「Yes, I am coming. There is the story I heard from Cliff too, after all.」

We – the three of us now – went to the king-sama's audience room.

Imperial guards were standing at the entrance.

It seemed that the guards had been informed, and when they saw the guild master, they guided us into the room.

「You did well to come here.」

When we entered, I saw a handsome middle aged man who was past his 40s.

This man must be the king.

However, he didn't wear a crown.

「Eleanora is here too?」

「The person who killed the monsters is my acquaintance, after all.」

Eleanora-san was looking at me.

Noticing that, the king's gaze also turned to me.

「And? I heard that you would bring an A-rank adventurer? Who is this girl wearing a Bear Suit?」

「Your Highness, pardon me! There isn't any A-rank adventurer. The one who killed all the monsters was this girl alone. I say that, but I am sure you won't trust me. The story of the A-rank adventurer is a lie.」

「I'm not so free that I can listen to your jokes. When is the adventurer coming?」

The king was angry.

It was a natural thing.

After all, he was suddenly told that it wasn't an A-rank adventurer who killed the monsters, but a girl in a Bear Suit.

「That's why I didn't want you to meet her. Your Highness, this is the truth, and you just have to believe it. This is something I guarantee.」

「I guarantee it too.」

「You too?」

「It's because she saved Cliff, after all. There is no better proof than this.」

The king was looking at me.

「Was it really you who exterminated them? Remove the hood and talk.」

I was so stressed about being in front of the king that I hadn't removed my hood.

I took it off it and greeted him.

「I am the adventurer Yuna.」

「It's just a child! Did you really kill more than 10,000 monsters alone?」

I may be short, but I am 15!

「I killed them. If you want proof, I will give it.」

「Is there any?」

「I have the corpses of the Worm and Wyverns I killed.」

「This girl has a bag that is a relic from ancient times, after all.」

「She has something like that?」

「I guarantee it.」

This thing about an ancient relic was something we discussed before coming here.

My Bear Box was special, and normal bags wouldn't be able to hold something as big as the Worm.

They said that the only bags that could do that were artifacts from the past.

That was why I decided to say that my Bear Box was a relic from the past.

「If you suddenly say that, I won't be able to believe it. However, if the two of you say that, it must be true.」

The king looked at me again.

「I will express my gratitude. Thank you for saving the citizens of this country, and the soldiers' lives.」

「Don't thank me, killing the monsters was just something I did while I was passing by.」

「…While you were passing by?」

My real thoughts leaked out…

「That's right. You see, Yuna-chan killed the monsters for my daughter's sake.」

Eleanora-san was talking happily, with a carefree smile.

After that, she started to talk about the reason the monsters were defeated, which she had heard from Cliff, finding it hilarious.

「A girl was on the brink of tears, and that was your reason to defeat them?」

「Ara, isn't that enough of a reason? Fighting for the ones you want to protect.」

「I know. However, the one who planned this will turn in his grave, I think.」

「「Planned?」」

The guild master's voice and mine overlapped.

「That's right. Since you are involved, it's okay if I tell you.」

The king explained that this attempted monster attack was the scheme of a guy who planned it for revenge.

There was a magic that could control monsters!?

There was the possibility of taming monsters to become your companions in the game as well, but…

After hearing what the king said, it didn't seem to be the same.

I didn't know any magic that would consume your life.

Was that some sort of forbidden magic from this world?

I was thinking about that when it became noisy outside of the room.

「You can't, Princess Flora. There are guests inside the room.」

The door opened a little and I heard some voices.

「No! I will go see Bear-san!」

「Please!」

「Nooo!」

「What is happening?」

「That's…Princess Flora wants to see the Bear-san, it seems.」

When the imperial soldier opened the door and explained it, Princess Flora used her little body to break through and enter the room.

「Bear-san!」

She approached and then hugged me.

「We finally meet!」

She smiled happily while rubbing her head on my stomach.

「What, you are an acquaintance of Flora?」

「The last time I went to the castle with her, we met Princess Flora.」

Eleanora-san responded for me.

「Is it possible that the Bear Picture Book is…」

「You saw it? Yuna-chan was the one who wrote it. It was great, right?」

「What to say. The pictures were really quite cute. When I asked who wrote it, Flora just responded that it was Bear-san, you see. Now I understand why.」

He was looking at me.

I am a bear, got a problem?

「Bear-san, let's play!」

「Umm, I don't know.」

I looked at all of them.

「I don't mind!」

I received the king's permission.

Guuuuuu~

Right then, I heard the sound of a hungry little stomach.

「Princess Flora, are you hungry?」

「Yes.」

There was some time before lunch.

There was pudding inside of the Bear Box.

If it was just that, there would be no problem, I think.

However, was it something that could be offered to a princess?

「Umm, is it okay if I give something to eat to the princess?」

「I don't mind.」

Was it really okay to give permission so easily?

If I gave her poison, what would he do?

「You said it's okay, but is it really? What if there is poison in it?」

「What, you'll give her poisoned things?」

「I won't, but…if you are a king, you should be a little more mistrustful, I think.」

「Eleanora and Sanya are people I trust. It's not something I have to fret about.」

「Then, shall we go to your room, Princess?」

「Yes.」

「You just have to eat it here, and the strange doubt will disappear too.」

That was a sound argument, but I didn't want to take pudding out in front of the king.

However, it was a little too late to say that I wouldn't take it out now.

I took the pudding and a spoon out of the Bear Box.

「Princess Flora, please take this.」

「What is that?」

「It's a cold, sweet, and delicious dessert.」

Princess Flora held the spoon in her little hand and brought it to her mouth.

At this moment, the smile that sprouted on her face was like a blooming flower.

Princess Flora continued scooping pudding into her mouth without stopping.

It seemed to please her.

「Is it good?」

「Mhm…」

She nodded slightly.

Her smile was cute.

It made me want to pat her head, but it would mean patting the princess's head in front of the king.

Though, there was no one who would blame me.

「What, is it that delicious?」

It seemed that seeing his daughter eat so happily pleased him.

「Yuna-chan, I want to eat one more too.」

Eleanora-san was looking this way with jealousy.

「Eleanora-sama, you have had experience eating it?」

Sanya-san asked.

Her eyes were glued to the pudding.

Oh, was it possible that she wanted it too?

「Yes, I have had the pleasure of eating it before. It's cold, sweet, and really delicious.」

All of their gazes were alternating between the pudding and me.

「Hmm, you want to eat some?」

「Yeah, I will take it.」

「Thank you, Yuna-chan.」

「Is it okay for me too?」

For now, I took out three of them.

There were just five puddings remaining.

Fina also really wanted to eat it, so they couldn't have more than one each.

「What…is…this…」

「Yes~! It's really delicious.」

「Ara, it's really delicious!」

It was great that it pleased the three of them.

At that moment, I could sense a gaze.

Princess Flora was staring at me strongly.

She was looking at the now empty cup and at me.

「This is the last one. After all, if you eat more, you won't be able to eat lunch.」

I warned her before taking out another one.

「What, there is something so delicious that has been produced near the castle.」

「I didn't know about this either.」

「When I think about it, it's normal. It's a pastry that Yuna-chan invented, after all.」

Eleanora-san explained it for me, but it wasn't really like I invented it.

However, I couldn't really say that it was knowledge from Earth.

「Is that right? But it's really delicious.」

「That's right.」

「If they know the recipe, could our chefs make it too?」

「Yeah, they could.」

I didn't want to tell them.

「No good! Yuna-chan is trying to build up a store with this food, so that the children of an orphanage will have jobs.」

「What do you mean?」

Eleanora-san heard about this from Cliff, huh. She started talking about what I was doing in the town.

The fact that I was taking care of the orphanage and the fact that I was raising Cluckers for their eggs, which was an ingredient for the pudding.

Also the fact that I was thinking that, if there were some children who wanted to become cooks, I would help them open a restaurant.

「Why do you know all of that in this much detail?」

「Of course, it's because in each letter Cliff sent me, he was writing so much about you that it could have made me jealous. It was written in the letter you were holding too.」

Someone, make a protection of personal information law, please!

「In that case, I won't ask for the recipe. However, if you could bring some every so often, the princess and I would be very grateful.」

「Yes, if it's like that.」

「Eleanora, prepare a letter that will permit Yuna to enter the castle whenever she wants.」

「Yes, understood.」

Apparently they would add an emblem to my guild card that would permit me to enter the castle as I wanted so that I could bring the pudding.

Was it okay like this?

Chapter 71
Bear-san Goes Back To Crimonia, For Eggs

There were no more eggs.

That was a big problem.

We couldn't eat sunny side up fried eggs or scrambled eggs.

We couldn't make pudding or egg sandwiches.

We had to get urgent replenishment.

That was why:

「Fina, I will go back to town. Do you want to come back, too?」

「Fueh?」

Fina replied strangely.

「There are no more eggs, so I thought of going to the orphanage.」

「Big Sis Yuna is going back?」

It was just a fast trip by transfer gate, though.

「That's right. But you can just tour around in the capital. What will you do?」

「I will go back, too. Can I just say goodbye to Noa-sama?」

「Ah, it's okay. We will be back today, after all.」

「……?」

Fina tilted her head a little.

「What you are saying is we will go to town now, and will be back today?」

「That's right.」

I don't think we are on the same page.

「If we are fast, we will be back in the afternoon.」

「Big Sis Yuna, I would feel bad for the bears. Even if there is no more eggs, it's okay. So don't do something that will hurt the bears, please.」

「……?」

I tilted my head this time.

「We will go by transfer gate, so we won't use the bears.」

「Transfer gate?」

It was Fina's turn to tilt her head this time.

Ah, I had not explained it to Fina.

「Sorry, Fina is always with me, so I wanted to tell you. We have the Bear's Transfer Gate, so we can go back to the town instantly.」

「….. Big Sis Yuna, I don't understand what you are saying.」

I thought so.

It would be strange if someone told you that you could move a long distance in an instant using a transfer gate, right?

If someone had said something like that to me in the real world, I would have thought something like, “Is his head broken?”

First of all, I didn’t even know if there was magic that permitted transferring in this world. If there wasn’t any, it was normal for Fina to say something like that.

「Hmm~, Fina, I just want to ask, but…in this country, is there a type of magic that permits instant movement, or a magic to move between two places in an instant?」

「……..」

「For example, a magic that permits instant movement between the capital and the town?」

「Never heard of that.」

Of course~

Hmmm, I thought it was okay to tell Fina about the gate.

She was not the kind of kid to talk about those sort of things.

Well, even if other people heard of it, I was the only one who could use the gates, and I installed all the gates in Bear Houses, so the only conclusion was that there was no problem.

「Fina, you know I trust you.」

「Hmm, yes?」

She agreed while tilting her head.

I went to the warehouse where the portal was.

「If I remember right, the same device was in the other warehouse.」

It was in the warehouse, but I hadn't explained it to Fina.

I wanted to explain how it worked to her.

「This gate and the one in town are connected.」

「Big Sis Yuna, even I won't be deceived by that. If I could go to the town where my mother is by passing through this gate, nobody would have a problem with transportation.」

Right on!

「For now, if you go through, you will understand.」

Clasping Fina's hand, I opened the door of the Bear Transfer Gate.

At that moment, we arrived at the warehouse of the Bear House in Crimonia.

「Big Sis Yuna?」

「Don't tell anyone about it, okay? Ah, and if I am not here, you won't be able to use it.」

When we went out of the warehouse, the long missed town of Crimonia came to view.

「If it's at this hour, Terumi-san should be at the orphanage. Let's go.」

We both went to the orphanage.

「Big Sis Bear!」

When we arrived near the orphanage, the children that were outside rushed over.

It was the children I selfishly named the Little Kid Group.

Well, they were less than six years old, and couldn't do any of the jobs.

Rather than us, it was the older children who were taking care of the younger children.

After one noticed, two or three more came rushing to me.

The children around me were increasing.

Was it just me, or were the children multiplying?

「Hello everyone, nothing happened?」

「Yes, no problem!」

「We did good with our jobs.」

I should pet their heads.

「Is Terumi-san here?」

「Yes. She's with the professor.」

I went to the orphanage while watching them respond playfully and energetically.

When I entered, the director, Terumi-san, and Rizu were drinking tea.

「Mother!」

「Fina and Yuna-chan, you were back?」

「We will quickly go back to the capital. We just came back because we wanted eggs.」

「Eggs?」

「Are there any?」

「All the eggs are Yuna-chan's, so if you want eggs, there will be eggs.」

「Can I have as many eggs as possible, but not so many that it causes trouble with the Commerce Guild?」

「When are you going back to the capital?」

「Today.」

「That's fast.」

「If I can get the eggs tomorrow, I don't mind leaving tomorrow.」

「I see. How many do you want?」

「100, 200, as many as I can get.」

「Then, is it okay if we give them to you tomorrow? If you take them today, you can have 100, but if you wait until tomorrow, we can prepare more.」

「Alright. Fina, we will go back tomorrow, so you can go with Terumi-san today. It's okay if you want to stay here afterwards.」

「No, I will go back to the capital, too. After all, I didn't get to say goodbye to Noa-sama.」

「Then we will meet each other at the orphanage tomorrow. Ah, and I have a favor to ask you all.」

「What is it?」

「If all goes well, next month, someone will come to sell potatoes, so could you please buy them for me? Take the money from the profits from selling the eggs.」

「Potatoes? If I remember correctly, your stomach will hurt if you eat them, right?」

It was the same here, huh?

「If you don't eat the eyes or sprouts, there is no problem.」

「Is that so?」

「We will eat together next time, so can you please purchase them?」

「Understood.」

I received today's portion of eggs, and left the orphanage.

When I walked around town, I noticed there wasn't as much of a reaction as there was in the capital.

Children just sometimes said,「It's Bear-san!」

「Found you!」

The one who was in front of me, with the eyes of a hunter who had found her prey, was Mylene-san.

「I searched for you, Yuna-chan.」

「Hmm~, what can I do for you?」

「What is that food called?」

「Food?」

「The one you gave me before going to the capital!」

「Ah~, the pudding.」

That's right, I remembered giving some to her.

「Yes, that! What is that delicious food!」

「More importantly, you did well, finding out that I was in town.」

「With that appearance, who wouldn't know. I looked for you after I heard some commerce guild personnel saying they saw you. Now, give me more of that food!」

She firmly grabbed my shoulders.

「Mylene-san, your personality has changed, you know…」

「For that, changing my personality is normal!」

「I will give it to you, so please let me go!」

Only after I said that did she let me go.

「No lies, right? If you are lying, I will curse you!」

I took out four puddings from the Bear Box.

「These are the last ones I have.」

「Thank you!」

After having received the puddings, she started beaming happily.

Mylene-san put them in her Item Bag so she wouldn't drop them.

「Hey, Yuna-chan, won't you open a shop? This will sell, without a doubt!」

「This uses eggs. For now, how much do they cost?」

「The price dropped quite a bit. After all, there are 200-300 of them every day.」

Then opening a shop was okay, I guess.

There were around 500 Cluckers.

I would have liked 1000 of them.

I considered that, but the number of people who would look after them was a little too insufficient.

I thought it would be impossible with just the orphanage's children.

Well, I will take my time to think about it.

「Then, can I ask you to make a reservation to start the shop? The place should be near the orphanage, and make it big. I want enough space outside the shop so that, even if it gets crowded, it won't cause any problems.」

「You have lots of requests, huh…」

「If I open the shop, I plan to engage the children of the orphanage. That's why it has to be close to the orphanage. And, it's just me saying this, but I think it will be popular, so it has to be big. If a crowd formed in front of the shop, it would cause problems for other people.」

「Understood. I will look for the right place.」

「I am not in a hurry, so you can take your time. I will go back to the capital tomorrow, after all.」

I parted ways with Mylene-san and went back to the Bear House.

Just after I arrived, I started to make pudding with the 100 eggs I received today.

The day will be finished right after that.

Chapter 72
Bear-san, Baker GET, Part 1

The next day, after obtaining the eggs, I went to the capital.

With this, it would be okay for now.

While I was taking my time inside the Bear House, I heard a voice calling me from outside.

When I went out, Noa stood there imposingly with puffed cheeks.

「Yuna-san, did you go somewhere while leaving me here all alone?」

「Can I ask something too?」

「What is it?」

「I don't understand, does Noa have nothing else to do? Aren't there any courtesy greetings or preparations that need to be done as a noble for the birthday party?」

「There aren't. It's basically because mother lives here that there is no need for greetings. The only greetings needed would be ones in the hall, during the birthday party. I will be accompanied by mother and father for that; and since the leading part will be going to my big sister, I'm just a bonus. More importantly, I came with Misa yesterday. She wanted to see the bears.」

「Sorry, I had some business outside the capital.」

I couldn't tell her that I went back to town through the transfer gate, so that was my response.

As an apology for yesterday, I will be Noa and Misa's playmate today.

Well, their playmates will be the bears though.

As the days passed gradually since I came to the capital, the day of the king's birthday approached.

Of course, as the day of the birthday party approached, Cliff and the other nobles were moving around busily.

Noa was no longer free to come to any more outings, and the times where I would go out with just Fina started to increase.

「Although I thought that there was a lot of people when we came to the capital, there are even more of them today.」

「This is the first time I've seen so many people!」

「Because of that, there are a lot of gazes.」

「Well, it's because Big Sis Yuna's suit stands out after all.」

The gazes of the people we crossed were always focused on me.

It had been a few months since I came to this world, and I had become accustomed to these gazes being fixated on me.

Although I would be lying if I said that it didn't bother me, but human beings learn to adapt.

「Being bothered by it won't do anything. Let's enjoy the few days before the birthday party.」

「Yes.」

While buying, eating, and window-shopping at the street stalls, we walked around the capital.

The capital was too big, it was almost as if we wouldn't have enough time to visit everything if we slowly took our time.

I even got various unusual things too.

「Ah, what a great smell.」

There was the scent of freshly baked bread coming from somewhere.

「Yes, it smells great.」

「It seems it is coming from the bakery over there. It's just about time, so let's eat?」

From where I could see, there was the signboard of a bakery.

It was a little shop, but a delicious smell was coming from there.

Inside the shop was a crowd of people.

All of them had been lured in by the scent just like us.

Fina and I lined up for the bread.

And after waiting for around ten minutes it was our turn.

「This bread looks delicious.」

A girl around my age was at the counter.

She seemed surprised by my suit, but she soon started talking with a smile afterwards.

「Thank you very much.」

「Then, I will take two pieces of bread please.」

「Yes.」

The girl gave us two pieces of bread that had just been brought out of the oven.

What a nice scent.

「If it's good, I will come back!」

「Yes, thanks for the patronage.」

After buying the bread, we went outside to eat them.

「This may be the best bread I have ever had.」

「Yes, it's delicious.」

It was fluffy bread.

It brought back the memories of the bread I ate back in Japan.

With this bread…making sandwiches or cheese toast…

Making all sort of things would be great, I bet.

Without forgetting, I decided to buy some before going back to Crimonia.

But…with all those customers…it would definitely be difficult to buy it…

Maybe if I came here first thing in the morning.

With that in mind, after taking into account the hour at which the bakery would open, I departed on the next day.

For now, since I didn't have rice, bread would have to be the center of my eating habit.

If it had to be like this, I wanted to eat delicious bread.

Thinking that, I arrived at the bakery.

Ara, there was a lot of people in front of the bakery…

Was I too late?

「Please stop!」

From the opened door, a woman past her thirties was shouting.

Next to her was the girl that was at the counter yesterday.

They were most likely mother and daughter.

The mother protected her daughter by shielding her and resisting with all of her strength.

The people watching this scene didn't try to help them…

「Hurry and get out! This shop is not your property!」

About three men were acting violently in the shop.

Because they were acting so violently inside the shop, bread was flying everywhere.

Puchi

(TL note: it's the sound of a vein that is contracted on Yuna's head: "Yuna angry!" feels like that…)

「But, we had an agreement that until the birthday party—」

「There are other people who want to do some business here!」

Not finished, the man stepped on the bread that fell and was rolling on the floor.

Puchi

「But, the agreement—」

「Agreement, agreement…Just shut up! If you want to work here, you have to repay your husband's debt! If you want, you can repay it with your daughter's body…」

The man grabbed the arm of the girl.

Puchi

「Let go of my daughter!」

The mother grabbed the man to save her child.

But the man hit her.

Puchi一n

I snapped.

I barged into the shop.

「What is it, you bitch!」

I punched.

「What are you doing?」

I kicked.

「You bitch, we are—」

I flung him away.

「Who wants to die first…?」

I asked the men that were collapsed on the floor.

「You think that it will end just like that?」

The man drew the sword he had on his waist.

「If you are drawing, I guess you don't have any complaints about dying right?」

「Don't fuck with me!」

I launched a Bear Punch into his solar plexus.

The man collapsed while holding his stomach.

「Who's next?」

I looked at the remaining two guys.

「You bitch, I'll remember those clothes. Don't think that you'll be able to leave the capital safely!」

The remaining two guys shouted while dragging the man who collapsed.

At that moment, an applause came from the audience.

「Are you okay?」

I approached the mother and daughter and asked.

「Yes, thank you very much.」

「By the way, that's terrible.」

All the fresh bread was scattered on the floor.

From them drifted a really great scent, so I think I sensed even more cruelty.

It was bad, just looking at all the bread on the floor, my anger was welling up.

I should have punched them some more.

「Before, I think he said something about a debt?」

「Yes, it was a debt from when we purchased this store. But when my husband died not too long ago, they started to coerce us into repaying the debt.」

「But, with such delicious bread, you could reimburse the debt with no problem, right?」

「Yes, if we had the time, it would be possible. But there is someone who wants this land, and more precisely this place.」

That's why the men started harassing them, so that they would leave this place.

Hmmm, what to do?

I wanted their bread, so I needed the bakery to continue.

Would this problem finish if I paid the debt?

「But, before leaving this place we wanted to earn enough money, so we could open our next bakery.」

「You will continue the bakery elsewhere?」

「Yes, it's the bread that my husband entrusted to me after all. I want to continue the bakery until I die.」

What a wonderful love between this husband and wife.

I couldn't stand doing nothing.

「Okay, I understand. Then, why don't you work at my shop?」

「Your shop?」

「Yes, I was planning on opening a shop, but I am a bit troubled because I don't have enough personnel to do so.」

It was the new shop I was planning on opening in Crimonia.

I wanted to let the children at the orphanage do it, but an adult was necessary if I wanted to entrust it to them.

Even more so when it was a talented baker who could bake delicious bread, which was needed in my shop.

「Is it a bakery? I can only bake bread after all.」

「Of course, I will ask you to make some bread, but you will also have to make other things. While we are at it, the thing I want you to make is this.」

I brought out two puddings and gave it to the them.

「What is this?」

「This is a dish named pudding.」

The two of them ate the pudding.

「It's delicious!」

「I want to sell this with the bread, but what do you think?」

I was planning on selling pizza too.

If you have bread dough, you could make pizza.

Killing two birds with one stone.

「Who are you exactly?」

「I am an adventurer from Crimonia. For various reasons, I will open a shop.」

「Hmmm, is it okay if my daughter comes too…?」

「Of course it's okay.」

「Thank you very much. I am Morin. My daughter's name is Karin.」

「Then, before those men come back, let's go.」

「But…our luggage…」

I took out 10 item bags that I previously took from the thieves.

I haven't used them at all, so I didn't really know just how much they could hold, so I took out this much in case it wasn't sufficient.

「This is?」

「These are item bags. You can put the little things you have in it, and the big ones will go into the item box I have on me.」

Since we didn't know when the men would come back, we immediately began moving.

I asked Morin-san to assemble all the utensils needed to make bread.

Fina and I helped Karin take the household goods.

I gathered all of the western clothes inside each closet and the books from the bookshelves and put them away.

For the small stuff, Karin-san was taking care of them and placed them inside the item bags.

「Excuse me, Yuna-san.」

While tidying up, Karin-san called my name in a little voice.

「What is it?」

「Will we really be able to open a store in Crimonia?」

「Yes, but it won't be just bread.」

「Why are you doing so much for us?」

「I want to eat delicious bread.」

「Huuuh?」

「I want to eat delicious bread. Just that is largely sufficient, right? Let's stop blabbering, hurry and finish tidying up. We don't know when those men will come back after all.」

As if we were running away at night, we placed all of the items in the house and the bakery inside the item bags and the Bear Box before running through the back door.

「Excuse me…where are the two of us going now?」

「For now, you can just come and live at my house. We shall see how things turn out, and we'll head to Crimonia after that.」

Without encountering those men, we arrived at the Bear House.

「Bear?」

Seeing the house, the two of them tilted their heads.

「Well, stop with that reaction and come inside.」

I took them inside the house.

「I'll let you see the bedrooms later. You can use the second floor.」

「Ummm, I want to thank you again.」

「Don't worry about it.」

「But, at that rate, I don't know what would've happened to Karin.」

「So, who were they?」

「Well, they were the subordinates of a merchant called Jorz. He's the merchant that said he would sell the place cheaply to my husband, but it was a scam. The place wasn't cheap, and an enormous price was written on the contract. My husband wanted to sue him, but we couldn't do anything about it since it was written in the contract. My husband, saying that complaining was no good, decided that we just had to make delicious bread. And once we could finally make delicious bread, he died. At that moment, Jorz started to say that we had to repay him at the same time, and that's why they were harassing us.」

「I don't understand all of it, but what happened to the money you paid before? You purchased the bakery, so isn't it yours now?」

「The problem is that there was a term saying that if my husband died, the shop would return to Jorz, it seems.」

「Simply put, you thought you bought it cheaply, but it was really pricy, and in addition to this, if your husband died, the shop would return to the hands of the merchant Jorz…Your husband has been deceived a little too much, don't you think?」

「Yes, my husband didn't know how to distrust strangers.」

「What an incredibly perfid merchant!」

'As one would expect, he was a stupid husband!' I couldn't say that…

I guided them to the rooms, and told them that I would rest for a bit.

We ate lunch afterwards, and while I was taking my afternoon nap, it became noisy outside.

「Get out here!」

「We'll break the door!」

「You bear! Come out!」

It's so noisy outside…

I will have to construct a soundproof barrier…

「Big Sis Yuna…」

「Don't worry, nobody can enter.」

「But…」

「You just have to wait here.」

When I came out, around 20 men were here.

「You came out, Miss Bear!」

A fat man with a bulging stomach and a smiling face started talking to me.

A creepy face.

He had a face that made me think that even if someone told me that he had toads as relatives, I would believe it.

「Who the hell are you?」

「I am the merchant, Jorz-sama!」

「Then I will recommend you to change your name to Jorz The Toad.」

「Bitch!」

「Stop! More importantly, I heard that you've hurt my subordinates!」

「He started it by trying to attack me with his sword. Would you prefer that he cut me in half with it?」

「You think you can just simply oppose Jorz-sama here in the capital? You want to end up like the baker girl, and sold somewhere?」

He said that with his smug face.

Ah, I wanted to hit his face!

I wanted to see his face twisted with pain.

I wanted to see his face filled with suffering.

「But if you give me the baker mother and daughter, I will forgive you for what you've done this time…」

「Excuse me, but aren't you misunderstanding the situation if you think that it'll all go as you've planned?」

「I know that missy is an adventurer. It's impressive that you are a D-rank while being a woman at this age, but these men here are former C and D-rankers you know! They aren't the sort of people you can win against! And lastly, look at their numbers!」

「No more…It stinks, so please don't open your mouth anymore.」

「You bitch!」

I invoked earth magic.

The men's footsteps disappeared instantly.

They all fell down a pitfall, leaving the Merchant Jorz alone.

The holes were around five meters deep, so some might've gotten bone fractures. If they had no luck, there was a chance that they might've died.

「You bitch…You were a magic user?」

「Didn't you say you investigated me?」

「When I investigated at the guild, your occupation was that of a Bear, you know.」

So nostalgic! The time I wrote that my occupation was a Bear!

But, well, that's not a mistake…

「There is no way an occupation like that exists, you know? Now, what will you do? Will you dive into a pit too? Or will you overlook me? Which is better?」

「Is it okay for you to do this to me? I am a man that can influence the guild master of the adventurer guild you know! I could pinch and crush an adventurer of your caliber easily!」

「Ara, was I so intimate with you?」

Sanya-san had been standing behind Jorz for some time, listening to the discussion.

「San–ya-san? Why are you here?」

「There was a guild staff member that was attending you, and when he spilled out what he knew, he said that the infamous merchant Jorz ordered him, and so I came after you.」

「And you said that you can affect the guild master Sanya-san…What are you going to do now?」

「Don't joke with me! What is a guild master? I am intimate with the king you know? If I told the king, what could you do?」

If you'll say something once, you'll say it again.

Wasn't there a saying like that?

「Who are you, you bastard. I don't know someone like you!」

「W–why is the king in a place like this???」

「Ah, I'm just taking a stroll and I have a request for my best friend, the adventurer Yuna. That's why I slipped out of the castle.」

Is that really okay, your majesty???

Also, since when did we become best friends???

「The king? That's a lie!」

「It's your problem if you think it's a lie, but using the king's name is a criminal act. Don't think it will end smoothly. Sanya, cuff this nasty man. I will let you contact the castle.」

「I don't have a choice, huh…I'm the only one here who can do this.」

Sanya-san arrested Jorz and tied him up.

「Let me go! Who do you think I am?」

「Shut up!」

Sanya-san knocked him out.

「So, what does his Highness want?」

「What? Are you not going to let me enter?」

「You want to come inside?」

「When you see a house like this, you would want to see the inside too, right?」

The house in front of him was the Bear House.

「Why do you know where my house is?」

「Of course, it's because I heard it from Eleanora.」

「Haaa…I understand. I will hear your story inside.」

Why do I have to guide the king inside my house?

「Big Sis Yuna, who is this uncle?」

Fina asked because I let an unknown uncle enter the house.

「It's the king. He wanted to request something of me, so don't worry about it.」

「Ummm, the king?」

She tilted her head cutely.

「Yes, the king.」

「The most eminent person in this country?」

「Yep.」

「W–Why is someone like him here???」

「No idea. Why not try asking him directly?」

Fina shook her head furiously.

Did they know the king's face? Morin-san and Karin-san had ghastly pale faces.

「So what do you want?」

I enquired the king who was looking around the room.

「Ah, that's right. I want you to make pudding for the birthday party. If it comes out for the dinner event, I am sure that all the people present will be surprised.」

What is this king thinking??

Can I refuse?

「By the way, is a refusal…」

「What? You want to decline a personal request from me, the king?」

I knew it…The king is someone that would just think about himself and wouldn't accept refusals from anyone.

「It's not that, but making pudding costs money.」

「If it's just that, I will pay.」

「 I need clucker eggs…」

「Eleanora said that you would have plenty of them inside your item bag.」

This man…

「By the way, how many should I make? If you require too many of them, I won't be able to do it, you know.」

「If you're doing it, that would be 300.」

「Impossible. The exit is this way.」

I pointed at the entrance.

「Then, how many can you produce?」

「If I do my best, the limit would be 200. If you prepare eggs, I can make more of them, though.」

「That's impossible. Well, I understand. Then 200 of them, please.」

「Hmmm…When is the birthday party again?」

「Hey!」

The king retorted.

I didn't have any interest, but there was no choice, right?

「Big Sis Yuna, it's in five days.」

「Then you are asking me to bring it on the morning of that day, right?」

「Yes, that would be great.」

「I don't want anyone to know I am the one who made them…」

「I see. Then I'll have you enter the castle secretly and put them in a room prepared for this.」

「If you don't put it in a cold place, the deliciousness would be reduced by 50% though.」

「In that case, I will prepare a refrigerator in the room.」

If he was ready to go that far, I didn't have any reasons to refuse him.

Thus, pudding was added as the dessert for the king's birthday dinner party.

Chapter 73
Bear-san, Baker GET, Part 2

The King went back.

The trash outside disappeared too, and the calm of the room returned.

However, there was a strange atmosphere…

「Hmm…What's the matter?」

It felt like their gazes towards me changed…

「Excuse me, Yuna-san, who are you really? Are you possibly a noble?」

Morin-san timidly asked.

Was it possible that she got scared, thinking I was a noble?

「You are wrong. I am a normal adventurer.」

「But, you seemed really close to the king…」

「It was just misfortune that led me to meeting him.」

「But for the King to come meet you in person…」

「That's just because he wanted to eat pudding, right?」

「But…」

The two of them were really hard to convince, and even Fina began seeing me as a noble…

The king brought unnecessary trouble.

He suddenly appeared in front of people who had a difference in status that was like heaven and earth compared to him, and said that he knew one of the people there. It was normal for others to think that the person was someone abnormal too.

It was the same in both worlds.

Politicians knew many politicians.

Doctors knew many doctor.

Professors knew many professor acquaintances.

A performer knew many performers.

Authors, of course, knew many authors.

A Hikikomori knew many hikikomori (of course, they met each other through games).

I'm sure that in all occupations, people in a certain field know many people interested in the same thing.

「Argh! I am not a noble, nor someone with links to the royal family, so treat me normally!!」

I forcefully stopped this story for now, and decided to talk about making pudding.

「So, it's earlier than I planned, but the two of you will help me make pudding starting tomorrow, okay?」

「Are you saying you will make us prepare a dish that will be served at the King's banquet?」

「That's right.」

「It's impossible!」

「Why?」

「The King himself will eat it, right?」

「Well, he will certainly eat it…」

「I can't do something so dreadful!!!!」

「It's really not like we're putting poison in it, you know…」

「If he ate it and had a stomache ache…. I can't even think about it!」

「You won't do it, no matter what?」

「Please forgive me!」

It was like…I was bullying her…

A typical commoner would have thought it was impossible to make a dish for the king, huh…

Well, if you asked me to make something for the Prime Minister or representatives for other countries, I would have refused as well.

It wasn't good to pressure them too much, so Fina and I would make them.

「Then, Fina, the two of us will have to make them.」

「I can't do it either!」

Fina shook her head vigorously.

Fina, you too?!

The next day, I made pudding all alone.

I couldn't make the three of them do anything besides shaking their heads…

They were on the side, watching me make pudding.

I would have liked them to at least break the eggs, but they wouldn't even do that…

My feelings didn't reach them.

With no other choice, I broke 100 eggs alone…

Well, I already had experience doing things alone…

However, I really was sad that, even though there was people around, they wouldn't help me…

In silence, I broke the eggs. In silence, I stirred the eggs.

I did it alone until the end.

I lined up around 100 cups of pudding in the big fridge.

I used all of the eggs I had taken time to replenish. Although I thought it would be sad for breakfast, it was decided that Morin-san would be baking bread for me before she went to Crimonia.

After I ate the freshly baked bread, I wanted to go out, but Ranzeru-san came to the Bear House.

I hadn't seen him since he brought me the bonus reward for subduing the bandits.

The country's soldiers had some trouble subduing the Zamon bandit group's camp and freeing the hostages there. The treasures that the band had assembled were there, and a major part of it became mine. He told me there were a lot of adventurers, so I abandoned my share, and asked him to distribute it to the adventurers who had suffered.

I decided to keep the item bags, the only things that could have been of some use to me.

「What happened?」

「I had some things to discuss about Jorz, who was captured the other day.」

「Ah, that Toad, huh.」

「He committed the crime of using the King's name, but we also found a lot of other crimes. One of them was regarding the people of the bakery you saved, Yuna-san.」

「Those two? I will call them.」

「Thank you.」

The content of the proceeding talk was:

The debt was erased and the bakery would go back to Morin-san.

「Is this true?」

「Yes, Jorz's possessions were seized, and with what we found, he will be sentenced to death.」

「Death penalty…」

「The fact is that he used the King's name, and staining the King's name is a terrible crime. Furthermore, the King saw the scene himself. He won't be able to escape from this.」

Well, it was true.

He threatened someone, saying he was the King's acquaintance.

I was sure it wasn't just Morin-san.

It wouldn't be strange if he said that to lots of people, and now lots of commoners might think that the king is a companion of criminals.

「I will bring the official documents later, so I will excuse myself now.」

Ranzeru-san bowed and departed.

A silence installed itself between those who remained.

「It's great the shop your husband created has been protected!」

「Yuna-san…」

「Well, I really wanted you to come to Crimonia.」

「…Yuna-san, I…」

「Don't worry about it! I am sure you prefer continuing to protect your husband's shop.」

「I am so sorry! Even though you were so good to us!」

「Isn't this a time to be happy about it?」

「Yes, thank you very much!」

The next day, Ranzeru-san came back and brought the official papers for the shop.

The bakery officially became Morin-san's.

However, for some reason, she presented the papers to me.

「…?」

「Take it, please. And take us to Crimonia.」

「Why?」

「Yesterday night, I talked with my daughter. Yuna-san, you have acknowledged my…my husband's bread.」

「We are not the only ones, right? The long line of customers who went to your bakery is proof, right? It's just that the bread you make is delicious.」

「Yes, everyone said it was delicious. But when we were attacked by Jorz, Yuna-san was the only one who saved us. You tried to give us a new place to work, taught us how to make pudding that even the King himself came to ask for. After all this, even if my husband's shop is returned, I won't go back until my debt of gratitude is repaid.」

「Don't even stress yourself about it…」

「If I don't, I would be like Jorz. Yesterday was sudden, so I was delighted, but then I realized I was really rude to you. Also it's not like I'm giving my husband's shop to a stranger, I'm giving it to you. I am sure Yuna-san will use it for something great. I don't particularly want it to be a bakery anyways, so please, use it as you wish.」

「Is it really okay? I really am happy, though.」

「Yes. Please take care of my daughter and me from now on.」

Both of them bowed.

They will be formally working at my place from now on, so they went to thank those who took care of them.

Their departure had been decided to be the day after the King's birthday party.

When the party finished, people would return to the places they came from.

Crimonia was not an exception.

Because there would be lots of people moving together, they could travel without being attacked by monsters or bandits.

They would both be going with the group that departed to Crimonia.

Me?

Of course, I would be using the Bear Transfer Gate.

Chapter 74
Bear-san Returns To Crimonia

On the day of the birthday party, I was waiting for Eleanora-san to bring the pudding to the castle.

As expected, it seemed that since there were a lot of people entering and exiting the castle today, I couldn't enter by myself, even if I had an entry permit.

Therefore, it had been decided that I would go with Eleanora-san.

「Fina, you really won't come?」

「Yes, I will stay and watch the house.」

Since we met Princess Flora the last time we went to see the castle, it seems to have become a kind of trauma. Even though nothing really happened to her…as a commoner, Fina must have been stressed out just by seeing royalty.

I didn't want to force her, so I decided to go to the castle alone.

「Okay. I will try to come back as soon as I can.」

I decided go to the castle alone.

As I was waiting at the Bear House, Eleanora-san came.

「Hello.」

「Good morning.」

「Fufu, I really want to see everyone's faces when they eat the pudding!」

Eleanora-san, your wicked face is showing!

「Seriously, don't tell anyone that I'm the one who prepared it!」

「I know! Anyway, His Majesty really thought about something interesting!」

「The people involved are troubled though…」

「Fufu, that's right, but the people who are watching will have fun.」

When we arrived at the castle, we saw carriages that probably belonged to nobles entering, one after the other.

They all had lots of pretty ornaments on them.

After seeing them, I wanted to escape, even though I wasn't Fina.

To explain it better, it felt like going to your best friend's wedding by train or bus, and then being surrounded by people who came in luxurious cars when you arrived…

Well, I was just delivering the pudding and was not going to participate in the party, so it was okay.

When we entered the castle, I was brought to an empty room.

There was a refrigerator installed inside.

「Put the pudding inside it, please.」

I took the cups of pudding out of the Bear Box and put them inside the fridge.

「It seems delicious.」

「You can't eat it!」

「Even I won't eat it this time. However, when Yuna-chan leaves, I won't be able to eat it anymore, huh.」

「When I come back, I'll let you have a feast.」

「When my daughter has a holiday, I will return with her, so I'll count on you at that time!」

Well, the shop would definitely be open by then, so it would be great to let her go there.

「Well then, I will go back.」

「You really won't take part? I will prepare a pretty dress for you.」

「Fina is lonely waiting for me, so I will go back.」

「It would have been great if Fina-chan came here too…」

「Participating in the King's birthday party is too high of a hurdle for us.」

「Really? The hero who killed all of the monsters and one of her friends is no problem!」

「I don't want to be a heroine, so I will politely refuse this offer.」

When I arrived at the Bear House, Fina was alone.

「Where are the other two?」

「They went to see the parade.」

「You didn't go?」

「They invited me, but Big Sis Yuna said that you would come back soon, so…」

She said something that made me happy.

「Then, let's go to see the parade.」

「But if we go now, the place will be full…」

「No problem, we will have special seats.」

When we went to the main street, there was a big crowd of people, just like Fina said, so we couldn't see the parade.

「Big Sis Yuna, with this…」

「Won't it be okay there? There will be no problems, so hold onto me tightly.」

I hugged Fina and jumped.

We arrived on the roof of a building.

It was the tallest building around here.

「We can see really well from here.」

It was brimming with people under us.

They were all gathered to see the king.

Was it like seeing a famous performer?

Like a parade for a pro baseball player's team after they won a tournament?

「See, Fina, we can look at people like they are trash.」

「Big Sis Yuna…」

She was looking at me coldly.

While splendidly ignoring those eyes, I took out the food I bought earlier.

After a short period of eating and drinking while viewing the capital from the roof, the parade finally arrived.

Knights on horses were in front.

They were stylishly holding lances and swords.

Musicians came after the knights.

The king's parade sounded so beautiful that it could make flowers bloom.

A big carriage followed the musicians, and the king and a woman were standing on it.

Was she the queen?

She was a beauty.

It was thanks to her beautiful mother and father that a beautiful child like Princess Flora was born, huh.

Their genes were really something to fear.

The king, who was waving his hand at the citizens while approaching us, noticed me on the roof.

He said something to the queen, and her gaze turned toward me before she started waving her hand.

What did he say to her?

I couldn't really ignore the two of them waving their hands, so I lightly waved my hands too.

The king's carriage passed us without a problem.

It seemed that the parade would make a round of the capital before finally entering the castle.

On that day, the capital was noisy late into the night, thanks to all the people celebrating the 40th birthday of the king.

The next day, since the birthday party had ended, Morin-san and her daughter began their trip to Crimonia.

I went to greet the people who took care of me before going back to town.

The first place I went to was the Adventurer's Guild.

「I will say it again, but thank you very much for exterminating the monsters. Yuna-chan, I will always welcome you, so when you come to the capital for work, don't forget to come see me.」

Sanya-san said.

Next, I went to the Foschurose house.

「Yuna, I was in your care. Thank you for taking care of my daughters as well.」

Cliff said.

「Big Sis Yuna, you're going back now?」

Noa said.

「Yuna-san, next time, I will have a rematch with you, okay?」

Shia said.

「Yuna-chan, if Cliff does something weird, tell me, okay?」

Eleanora said.

「I will make the flowers in the garden bloom before you come back, so please come see it.」

Suririna said.

Since Cliff's job in the Foschurose house was finished, it was decided that he would go back with Noa.

He invited me too, but this time, he didn't need my help as a guard, so I refused politely.

The next stop was Faren Gramm's house.

「If you come to my town one day, don't hesitate to come by my house. I will welcome you.」

Gran-san said.

「I want to say bye-bye to the Bear-sans…」

Misa said.

At her demand, I summoned the bears and she bid farewell to them.

The last stop was the castle.

「I wanted you to see the faces of the nobles who ate the pudding too!」

「Don't talk about me to anyone, please.」

「It was a great uproar, with lots of people saying that they wanted the chef to be introduced.」

The king started laughing.

「So, what do we do for the payment of the pudding?」

Ah, I forgot.

I wasn't really lacking money.

「Well~, it will be your reason to not talk about me to others.」

「What, you don't trust me?」

「I don't particularly need money, and if it seems like Princess Flora will talk about it, you have to skillfully deceive them.」

「Understood. So, you won't go to see Flora?」

「I will come back to bring pudding. If I see her, she will probably start crying.」

I was really bad at looking at a child's crying face.

「I see. I want to eat pudding too, so please try to come back with them quickly.」

I finished saying my farewells to all the people who took care of me, so I decided to go back to Crimonia.

I said this, but I could come back whenever I wanted.

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